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Veteran IM Mike Basman

"What, Fisticuffs?"
Tomashevsky's Shoes
Smyslov's Favourite
Aronian's Best For 21 Months

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**Late News****FIDE World Cup:** In an All-Russian Final, the
younger man triumphed having lost the
first two games! PV Svidler 4–6 SA Karyakin.
Both players qualify for the 2016 Candidates
Tournament.**PokerStars Isle of Man:** A strong field, led
by Michael Adams, has assembled once
again in Douglas. Nigel Short is among the
leaders at the tournament's mid-point.Enjoying this issue?
Why not book a sub!

Details in the left-hand column.



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Chess Coach

IM Julian Meszaros has been a professional chess coach since 1992, and currently works with both juniors and adults in London and the surrounding area.

Widely regarded as the most successful Hungarian trainer of the past two decades, he was head coach at the Peter Leko Chess School in Hungary before moving to England last year. Many of Julian's ex-students are now IMs and GMs, and he has been the main coach of many medallists in international competitions, including two age-group World Junior Champions. For nearly 20 years Julian was also the Hungarian Chess Federation's Junior Supervisor, leading its junior team in dozens of world tournaments and developing the regional and central chess school system in Hungary.

Julian speaks, translates and publishes in several languages, and has written a highly-regarded book on opposite-coloured bishop endings.

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In this month's issue

Northern Universities Chess Championship	508	Club Knight	536
Streetfighter Chess	509	Double Exchange Sacrifices: Part 3	541
Chess Boxing	512	Congress Diary	541
Games Department	513	News from the British Isles	543
Quotes and Queries	517	News from Abroad	545
The Shock of the New	521	Problem World	548
Endgames for Experts	523	Bound Volumes	551
Guest Columnist	526	Endgame Studies	552
Chess Questions Answered	528	Abu Dhabi Masters	553
Amazing Success	533	Openings for Amateurs	557

Northern Universities Chess Championship

Isobel Cotogni: NUCC Press and Publicity
Peter Hornsby: NUCC Founder and Director

On June 14th, 2015, the first ever Northern Universities Championship took place at the University of York, attracting teams from across the North of England: Durham, York, Sheffield, Leeds and a mixed Barbarians line-up containing players from Lancaster. The event was organised and run by Durham University students Peter Hornsby, Alex Taylor, Sam Walker and Isobel Cotogni, along with York University's Joel Wagg and Nathalie Taylor. This enabled students to compete against each other after the stressful exam period. Through interaction with respective student unions motions have been set in place for more chess societies to be set up at other universities enabling them to be in a stronger position to compete in next month's instalment.

The teams were split into two sections from the final standings of two groups, and from there overall standings were determined via a knockout round. Durham "A" and York "A" both topped their groups, whilst Sheffield "A" and Sheffield "B" each claimed second place. These teams thus progressed to the first division semi-finals which saw York "A" and Durham "A" prevail against Sheffield "A" and Sheffield "B", respectively. In a dramatic final between the two strongest teams of the competition, the NUCC title was finally claimed by Durham "A" after Ben Yaniv snatched a last minute win on board 3 securing a 2–2 tie, and with it the championship, as they won on superior tie break.

Ben adds:

'All the other games had finished and the score was 2–1 to York, and the fate of the team and the championship was in my hands. It was a very sharp game against a strong opponent, but I had the initiative and was pushing for a win throughout. Eventually, with less than a minute on our clocks, I gained an advantage. My opponent made a few last moves out of desperation; however, realising that it was in vain he eventually resigned – so we shook hands – and with it handed Durham the championship.' Meanwhile Leeds were victorious over York "B" and went on to defeat the Barbarians team. Finally, Durham "B" to win the second division title, and fifth place overall in the competition. Sheffield "A" won the third place play-off.

The final standings were as follows: **1 Durham, 2 York "A", 3 Sheffield "A", 4 Sheffield "B" 5 Leeds, 6 Barbarians, 7 Durham, 8 York.**

Durham Captain, Phil Purcell, added:

'It's a great achievement to win the first ever competition! We hope it will be the first of many and it's to our credit that so many of our players took part. New players will, of course, enhance our performances for years to come.'

Board prizes were collected by Martin Brown (York University) Phil Purcell, Ben Yaniv and Keith Barker (all of Durham University) on boards 1, 2, 3 and 4. The NUCC committee would like to thank everyone who participated and special congratulations to Durham "A" for their overall victory and to Sheffield "B" for being the best placed second team.

The next rapidplay NUCC is scheduled for November 7th, 2015 at the Exhibition Hall York University, and due to its initial success there are expected to be at least ten more teams entering from other leading universities across the North of England as well as from Scotland too. This expansion and development has been made possible by the help of the *British Chess Magazine*, who have kindly agreed to support and sponsor this innovative event in the calendar.



Streetfighter Chess

Andy Burnett

Purists may find themselves offended by this article, but hopefully the majority of readers will realise that successful chess demands a large element of practical skills to complement the more 'technical' aspects, such as opening knowledge, middle-game strategy and endgame expertise. Let's start with one of the most extreme aspects of practical chess, gambling!

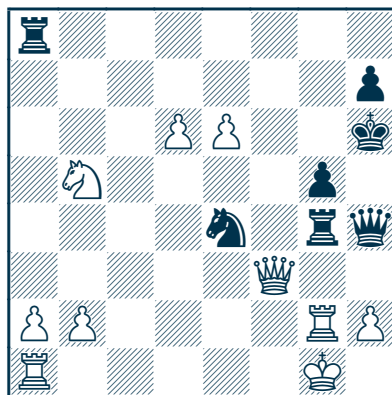
Gamble gamb(ə)l/ 2. Take risky action in the hope of a desired result.

To see exactly what gambling in chess means, let's look at this position:

□ M Janko

■ A Burnett

Nove Zamky Open, 2014



Diary

London Christmas Weekender,

28th–30th December at University of Westminster, Harrow. Open, U165 and U125. Write to: LJCC, 33 King Henry's Road, London NW3 3QR. Well served by public transport.

If Black (me!) doesn't manage to trick White somehow, then the two passed central pawns will prove decisive. Fortunately, I have three things in my favour: I still have a lot of pieces on the board, my opponent is playing on a 30 second increment only for the rest of the game and it's my move.

37...♖xa2!!

Accompanied by a draw offer. I was lost before this move and I'm still lost after it, so this move isn't really gambling. However, it forces my opponent to sift through lots of rook moves to find a safe one.

38 ♖xa2??

He declined my offer after 27 seconds thought. This actually is gambling in action: White simply doesn't have enough time to calculate everything in such a sharp position, so rejecting my offer is a very dangerous thing to do.

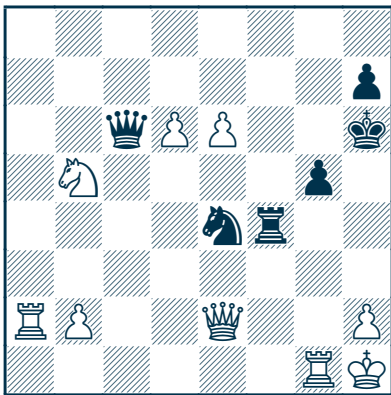
38... ♖e1+ 39 ♖f1 ♖e3+ 40 ♔h1 ♖f4 41 ♖e2??

Here is the blunder which I pretty much expected to arrive at some point.

41... ♖c1+ 42 ♖g1

Most players would have aimed for this position as White. Black no longer has any checks available, and surely White will now get the chance to consolidate?

42... ♖c6!!



43 ♖g2 ♖f2+ 44 ♔g1 ♖c1+

44... ♖h3+ 45 ♔h1 ♖c1+ amounts to the same thing.

45 ♖f1 ♖h3+

...and mate in two so...

0-1

My opponent actually went ballistic after resigning, accusing me of all sorts of ridiculous luck, usually preceded by the f-bomb. If we look at the end of the game objectively, however, we can see that only White was gambling here.

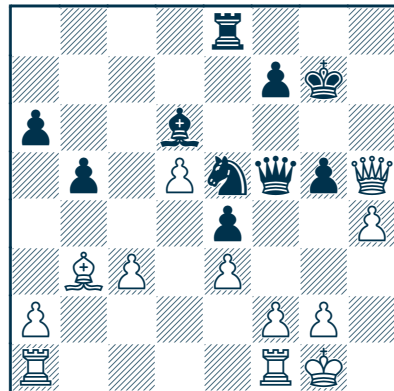


Let's look now at an example where I really do gamble. It's the first round, I'm playing somebody 400 points lower rated, and I really need to win almost all such games throughout the season – but to do so, you have to be prepared to gamble!

□ D Hall

■ A Burnett

Ayr Congress, 2015



27... ♖f6!!

I am desperate to avoid a draw and this move gives my opponent a chance to go badly wrong in his extremely acute time trouble. 27... ♖e7 28 d6 ♖d8 is apparently quite reasonable for Black, but 29 f4 exf3 30 ♖xf3 ♖xf3+ 31 ♖xf3 ♖xf3 32 gxh3 ♖xh3 is similar to, but definitely worse than, the line I had been expecting at move 26. I am not winning this.

28 ♖xe8 ♖g4!

Part Two of the gamble. Here I could have forced a draw with 28...♘f3+, but my opponent has almost no time left and several moves left to make. I expect him to make a huge mistake soon. *Why?* Because the position is very sharp, he has almost no time and he is probably very nervous playing a much higher-rated opponent. We've all been in this position.

29 h5??

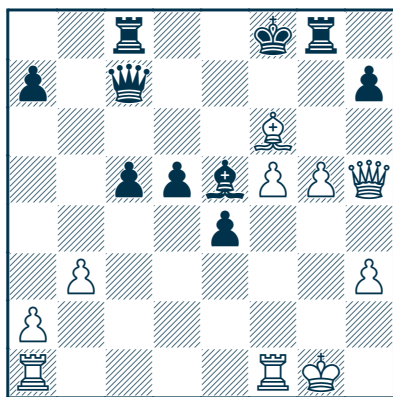
Finally, White cracks! 29 ♖fd1 looks scary for White, but all he really needs is one free move to secure his defences. 29...♘f3+ 30 ♖f1 ♘xh4 (30...♘h2+ 31 ♖e1 ♘e5 and now White can even ignore the attack on c3: 32 d6 ♘xc3+ 33 ♖d2)

29...♘f3+ 0-1

Be warned! Things don't always work out as planned – it's easy to push things too far! Witness...

- A Burnett
■ J Meszaros

Nove Zamky Open, 2014

**28 ♘xe5**

Here I really ought to have played 28 ♖h6+= and taken the draw by repetition (Black can't avoid it), but I thought the position might be

much more difficult for my opponent than it turned out to be, particularly as I now missed almost all of his tactical ideas.

28...♖xe5 29 g6?!

This was the plan – trying to force Black to open up his king – but my young opponent was on the ball.

29...♖c7!

A good point to note here: in attack or defence, try to include all of your pieces in the game. My opponent manages this – I don't.

30 ♖h4 hxg6 31 fxg6+ ♖e8 32 ♖h1 ♖xg6 33 ♖f2 ♖h8 34 ♖f5 ♖h6 35 ♖h2

Missing his reply completely, but the position is bust anyway.

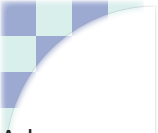
35...♖xh3+! 36 ♖xh3 ♖h7 37 ♖xh7 ♖xh7+ 38 ♖g3

The queen and pawns are far too strong for the rooks to handle, so...

0-1

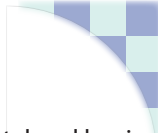
Why does this failed gamble differ from the previous successful one? Well, for starters the defence here was more obvious – simply prevent checks by including all the pieces. Also, set up counter threats by combining defence and attack. So, when to gamble?

- ♘ When you really, really need to win!
- ♘ When the opponent's defence is extremely difficult to see or calculate.
- ♘ When your opponent has a wide choice of reasonable looking moves, but nothing completely forced.
- ♘ When you can guarantee you will have enough pieces and threats to cause serious practical problems for your opponent.
- ♘ When your opponent has very little time to sift through all the options to find a safe one.



Chess Boxing

Mark Collinson



Ask any group of gentlemen or ladies which sport is the most physically brutal and boxing is sure to figure pretty high on the list. It takes weeks or even months of physical training to prepare for a bout that could feasibly last less than three minutes. It also takes stamina, speed, strength, and a jaw made from steel, and if the film, 'Rocky IV' is to be believed lifting logs in the Russian winter doesn't hurt either. Anyone who has spent any amount of time involved in the sport or has watched a significant number of quality bouts will tell you: brains come with the brawn. You rarely win a match by standing in the centre of the ring trading blows. Take Muhammad Ali's famous rope-a-dope match against the much favoured George Foreman (where Ali leaned so far back on the ropes he almost fell out the ring while letting big George punch himself out) or more recently Floyd Mayweather's excellent fighting brain.

Now, ask that same group of people which sport is the most mentally draining and chess will be the first mentioned. A sport that requires mental stamina, speed and strength, the ability to stay calm under pressure and to plan ten moves ahead. If all of this could be brought together in one sport we would truly have something very special. That was just the idea Dutch performance artist, Iepe Rubingh had in 2003 when he founded the *World Chess Boxing Organisation* (WCBO) in Berlin and won the first Chessboxing Championship the same year, defeating Jean Louis Veenstra in 11 rounds.

Inspiration for the sport came to Rubingh from a French comic called 'Froid Equateur' which portrays a chessboxing championship. However, this was not the first incarnation of chessboxing. Back in 1978 in Greenwich, London, two local brothers, James and Stuart Robinson, had already set up a chessboxing club that caused widespread interest, but unfortunately closed after the brothers moved away from the area a few years later. Now, since 2003, chessboxing has been re-launched as a legitimate sport and has found success in Germany, Russia, India and the UK.

A match consists of eleven alternate rounds: six rounds of chess, each four minutes long, and five rounds of boxing, each three minutes long. A player can win by either knockout or a technical stoppage by the referee in the boxing rounds; or by achieving checkmate or winning on time in the chess rounds. At the end of each boxing round a table with a chessboard is placed in the centre of the ring, both players are given a pair of ear defenders and the chess begins. A live commentator keeps the crowd informed and entertained and a big screen shows the chess positions as they play.

In the UK, Tim Woolgar has helped the profile of chessboxing when he set up *London Chessboxing*, a registered charity that not only puts on regular sold out shows at London's *Scala Club* in King's Cross, which brings cabaret, music and glamour to its shows, but also helps young people with developmental training in the capital and has set up a chessboxing training Club in Islington.

A chessboxer needs to be a special kind of athlete, combining both the physicality of boxing with the mental agility of a chess player. If you are thinking of having a go yourself there are no formal requirements to start, although being only a passable player will not do. The European chess boxing champion, FM Tihomir Dovramadjiev, has a rating over 2300 and most have to be at least Elo 1500. The sport may be still in its infancy, but with the growing support of young people who are looking to compete at chessboxing and an ever-growing worldwide community it looks to be going from strength to strength.



Games Department

IM Andrew Martin

a.martin2007@yahoo.co.uk



Two brilliant games from the Sinquefield Cup this month, with poor Wesley So at the receiving end.

□ W So

■ LG Aronian

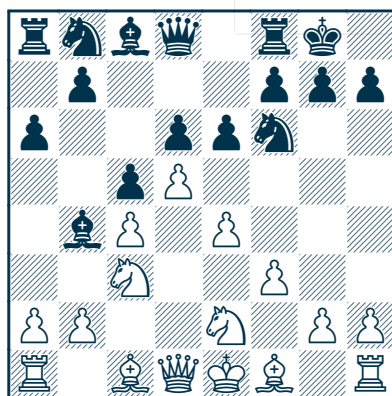
3rd Sinquefield Cup, 2015
Nimzo-Indian E20

[Martin]

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♘c3 ♙b4 4 f3

At the highest level, it's basically very difficult to lose with White if you do not want to. But how to win? Some prefer to play unpredictably, mixing up opening ideas. So simply plays one of the sharpest systems against the Nimzo, in the hope of outplaying his opponent tactically. Aronian is very well prepared.

4...c5 5 d5 0-0 6 e4 d6 7 ♘ge2 a6!?



Black wants to play ...b7-b5. Does he need to prepare the idea? Take a look at this game from Stavanger: 7...b5!?

(a) 8 cxb5?! exd5 9 exd5 ♖e8 leaves Black with a strong initiative.

(b) 8 dxe6 ♙xe6 (8...fxe6 9 cxb5 a6 10 a3 ♙xc3+ 11 ♘xc3 d5 is unclear) 9 cxb5 is a more severe test and possibly what So intended. It's easy to imagine that with computer help White could defend this position and keep his extra pawn.

8 ♘f4 exd5 9 cxd5 a6 10 ♙e2 ♘bd7 11 0-0 c4 12 ♙e3 ♙c5 13 ♙xc5 ♘xc5 14 b4 cxb3 15 axb3 b4 16 ♘b5 ♙b6 17 ♘h1 g5 18 ♙d4 ♘cd7 19 ♙xb6 ♘xb6 20 ♘c7 ♖a7 21 ♘b5 ♖e7 22 ♘xd6 gx4 23 ♙xa6 ♖d8 24 ♙xc8

Diary

Hastings International Congress

– open to all – 28th December–5th January. Morning, Afternoon, New Year and Nine-round Swiss Masters.

www.hastingschess.com

♖xd6 25 ♜f5 ♜bd7 26 g3 fxg3 27 ♜g1 ♜f8 28 ♜xg3 ♜c5 29 ♜h3 ♜e8 30 ♜b1 ♜h5 31 ♜g5 ♜f4 32 ♜f1 ♜a8 33 ♜c4 ♜a2 34 ♜g4 ♜h6 35 h4 ♜fd3 36 ♜g2 ♜xh4+ 37 ♜g1 0-1; Al Grischuk–VA Topalov, Stavanger, 2015.

8 a4 ♜a5

A completely new move. Black keeps the tension. Yet 8...exd5 9 cxd5 ♜bd7 10 ♜g3 ♜e5 11 ♜e2 ♜d7 12 0-0 ♜e8, or something like it, also looks satisfactory for Black. With 8... ♜a5, it looks as though Aronian is giving White extra chances to go wrong.

9 ♜d2 exd5 10 cxd5 ♜h5!

An excellent move, dissuading ♜g3; if White cannot play that, he will struggle to get his pieces out.

11 g3 ♜d7 12 ♜g2 b5

Correctly trying to open the game.

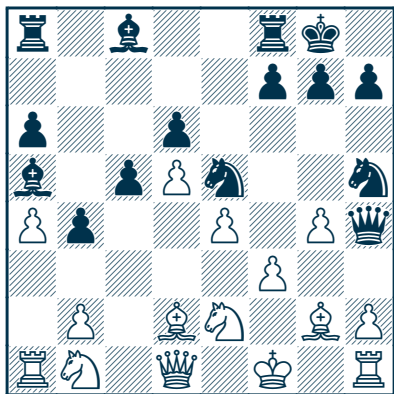
13 g4

Risky. 13 0-0 should have been tried, and whilst Black's position is to be preferred, a very complicated middlegame lies ahead. 13...b4! 14 ♜b1 ♜c7 15 g4.

13...b4 14 ♜b1

14 gxh5 bxc3 15 bxc3 ♜h4+ 16 ♜g3 ♜e5 17 0-0 appears playable for White according to the machines, but one can see why So didn't like it.

14...♜h4+ 15 ♜f1 ♜e5!



○

Commencing a strong attack. White can defend, but it is not at all easy and hardly the reason White plays 4 f3 in the first place.

16 ♜e1?

A clear mistake. What are the other options?

(a) 16 gxh5 f5 17 ♜e1 is the best try. Despite Black's obvious attack, White is very much on the board: 17...♜f6 18 f4! ♜g4 19 ♜c1! fxe4 20 h3! (20 ♜d2 ♜e3+ 21 ♜g1 ♜xg2 22 ♜xg2 ♜f5 23 ♜g3 ♜xd5 24 ♜c4 ♜b7 25 ♜xd5+ ♜xd5 26 f5 ♜ae8 is good for Black) 20...♜e3+ 21 ♜xe3 ♜xb2 22 ♜a3! bxa3 23 ♜xa3 ♜xe1 24 ♜xe1 ♜a2 25 ♜xe4, with an unclear position.

(b) 16 ♜g3? ♜xg4 can be rejected.

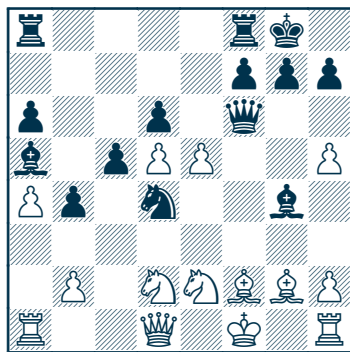
(c) 16 ♜e1 ♜f6 17 g5 ♜g6 18 ♜f4 ♜xf4 19 ♜xf4 f5 looks very powerful for Black. White had only a narrow way.

16...♜f6! 17 gxh5 ♜xf3 18 ♜f2 ♜g4

Maintaining the pressure, although greed was also good. 18...♜xb2! is naturally preferred by the computer. It seems clearly best: 19 ♜xf3 (19 h6 ♜xa1 20 ♜xf3 ♜h3+ 21 ♜g1 f5 is also good for Black) 19...♜xa1 20 ♜g2 f5 21 ♜g3 ♜a2!

19 ♜c1

White should try 19 ♜d2! ♜d4 20 e5!!



●

And I am surprised he didn't. The point of this excellent idea is to force exchanges: 20... ♜xe5 (20...dxe5 21 ♜e4 ♜h6 22 ♜g3 is unclear) 21 ♜xd4 cxd4 22 ♜f3 ♜f6 23 ♜xd4 ♜xf3 24 ♜xf6 ♜xe2+ 25 ♜xe2 gxf6 26 ♜d3,

with an unclear position.

19...♘d4! 20 ♘xd4 cxd4

So's problem is his lack of development, and he cannot create counterplay as a result. It's easy for Aronian to introduce all his pieces into the attack.

21 e5 dxe5

21...♟f5! was more accurate: 22 ♘d2 (22 ♔g1 ♟ac8 23 ♟f1 ♟c2-+) 22...♟fc8 23 ♟b1 d3 24 ♔g1 ♟c2-+.

22 ♘d2 ♟ac8 23 ♟b1 b3! 24 ♘xb3 ♟b6

25 a5 ♟a7

25...♟c2!

26 ♔g1 ♟f5 27 ♟e4?

White should have struggled on with 27 ♟e1.

27...♟g5+ 28 ♔f1 ♟f4

Black's central pawns will not be denied. Not a perfect attack by Aronian, but a very entertaining one. So will feel disappointed that he did not put up much of a defence.

0-1



I wrote a book about the King's Indian back in 1989, and even then I warned against going into the Mar del Plata variation without a full understanding of the positions that can arise. Twenty-five years ago there was a lot of accumulated theory; what of today?

□ W So

■ H Nakamura

3rd Sinquefeld Cup, 2015

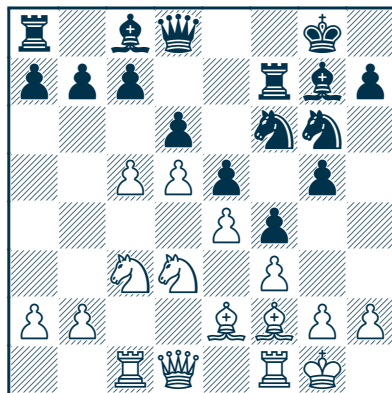
King's Indian, Mar del Plata E99 [Martin]

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♘c3 ♟g7 4 e4 d6 5 ♘f3

0-0 6 ♟e2 e5 7 0-0 ♘c6 8 d5 ♘e7 9 ♘e1

♘d7 10 f3 f5 11 ♟e3 f4 12 ♟f2 g5 13 ♘d3

♘g6 14 c5 ♘f6 15 ♟c1 ♟f7



This is one of the main lines. White usually chooses between 16 a4 and the game move. It's a question of whether White can get anything on the queenside and force Black to be passive before the roof caves in on his king. Apparently So was blitzing out moves here. We wait for the new idea.

16 ♔h1 h5 17 cxd6

17 ♘b5 g4 (17...a6!? 18 ♘a3 g4 19 ♘c4 is unclear) 18 cxd6 Shirov finds a better moment than So to take on d6. The difference is that White can play ♟c2 and penetrate to c7. 18...cxd6 19 ♟c2 g3 20 ♘c7! led to a very interesting example of this line: 20...♟xc7 21 ♟xc7 ♟xc7 22 ♟xc7 gxf2 23 ♟f1± 1-0 (46); A Shirov-E Bacrot, Bilbao, 2014.

17...cxd6 18 ♘b5

18 ♟c2!?

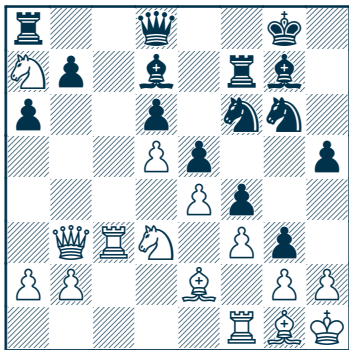
18...a6 19 ♘a3

19 ♘a7 ♟d7 20 ♟b3 g4 G Kjartansson-V Kovalev, Riga, 2015, and then something like

Diary

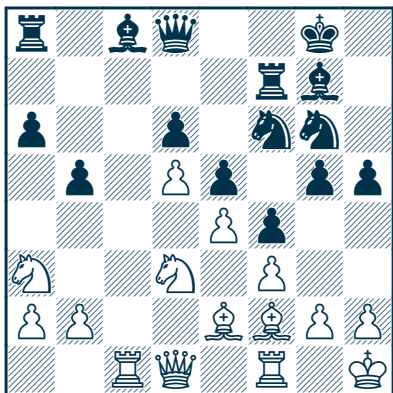
South Wales New Year Congress,
Penarth Conservative Club, 8th-10th
January, 2016. Open/U1700 ECF 131
or below. 5 rounds. Kevin.Staveley@
btinternet.com. Bookstall: Chess
Essentials.

21 ♖c3 g3 22 ♙g1



leads to a typical position for this line. Maybe after 22...g×h2 23 ♙f2 h4 24 ♖×b7 ♘h5 Black's position is to be preferred.

19...b5!



Slowing down any White queenside attack. The time that White has to take redirecting the knight on a3 will be used by Nakamura to put the boot in on the king.

20 ♖c6

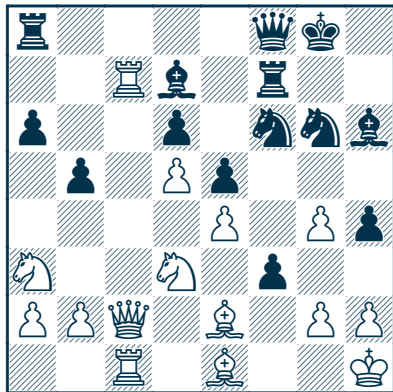
What is White actually threatening? What is he threatening to threaten?

20...g4 21 ♖c2 ♗f8 22 ♖c1 ♙d7 23 ♖c7

Wesley looks as though he is completely

underestimating Black's attack. He has two decent alternatives: 23 ♘b4 or 23 ♖b6.

23...♙h6 24 ♙e1 h4 25 fxg4 f3



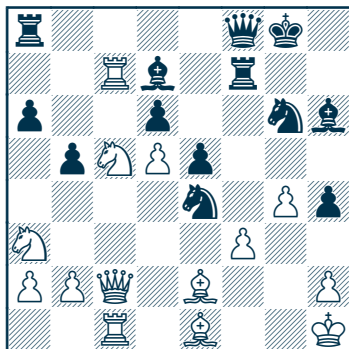
This type of move is nothing really new, yet it is still attractive. Nakamura jettisons his pawns to blast through with his pieces.

26 g×f3 ♘xe4 27 ♖d1?

Allowing 27...♖×f3 – not a good idea.

27 ♖×d7 ♖×f3! is still very strong for Black: 28 ♘f2 (28 ♙×f3 ♖×f3+ 29 ♖g2 ♖×d3 30 ♖d1 ♙d2!! 31 ♙×d2 ♘f4 and White is getting mated) 28...♖×f2 29 ♙×f2 ♘×f2+ 30 ♙g1 ♘h3+ 31 ♙h1 e4 32 ♖f1 ♘f2+ 33 ♙g1 ♙e3 34 ♖c3 ♙c5+.

So that leads us to 27 ♘c5!

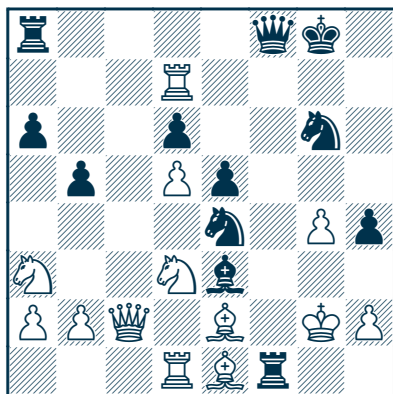


which was probably the sole chance of creating some confusion: 27...dxc5 28 ♖xd7 ♖xd7 29 ♗xe4 ♙xc1 30 ♗xg6+ ♖g7 31 ♗e6+ ♗f7 32 ♗c6. Of course, this is still very good for Black.

27...♖xf3! 28 ♖xd7

28 ♙xf3 ♗xf3+ 29 ♗g2 ♙xg4+.

28...♖f1+ 29 ♙g2 ♙e3!



A great move, piling in. If we are going to split hairs, 29...h3+ 30 ♙xh3 ♖f2 was best of all, wiping White out on the spot: 31 ♙xf2 ♗xf2 32 ♖xf2 ♖f4+ 33 ♙h4 ♙g5#. What a finish that would have been!

30 ♙g3

There is no defence. If he tries 30 ♙f2 then 30... ♖xf2+ 31 ♖xf2 ♗xf2+ 32 ♙h1 ♙f4 33 ♙f1 ♗e3 intending ...♖f2 leaves White powerless.

30...hxg3 31 ♖xf1 ♖h4+ 32 ♙h3 ♗h6

Great stuff. It remains to mate the king.

33 g5 ♖xg5+ 34 ♙g4 ♖hf3 35 ♖f2 ♗h4+ 36 ♙f5 ♖f8+ 37 ♙g6 ♖f6+!

Pretty, but not the only way. 37...♖f7 also mates in three: 38 ♙f5 (38 ♖xf7 ♗g5#) 38... ♖h8+ 39 ♙e6 ♗f6#

38 ♙xf6 ♖e4+ 39 ♙g6 ♗g5# 0-1

Crowd-pleasing chess. A brilliant attack by Nakamura, but I am sure that a vigorous debate about the 9 ♖e1 variation will continue.

Quotes and Queries

Alan Smith

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6047 The Meran variation of the Semi-Slav Defence has been one of the cornerstones of theory for over a century. Ostensibly introduced in the game Grünfeld–Rubinstein, Meran, 1924, but it is rather older than that. Rubinstein had played it previously himself, against Teichmann at Carlsbad, 1923. Ossip Bernstein tried it out versus Capablanca in 1914, but the stem game was C Schlechter–J Perlis at Ostend, 1906. Julius Perlis lost to the tournament winner in a widely pub-

lished game. One of those who took notice was Harry Holmes of the Liverpool CC.

Here is an early example of his play with the Meran.

□ AG Condé

■ Dr H Holmes

Handicap, 1909

QGD, Slav D11

[Smith]

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♖c3 c6 4 e3 ♖d7 5 ♖f3 ♖g6 6 ♙d3 dxc4 7 ♙xc4 b5 8 ♙d3 a6 9 0-0 c5 10 ♖e5?

This is a thematic move in many queen's pawn systems, but here it only leads to a disadvantageous exchange. 10 ♖e2 ♙b7 11 ♙d1 is better, as in A Burn–H Holmes Liverpool, 1912; 1–0 in 62 moves.

10... ♙b7 11 a4? b4 12 ♗xd7

12 ♗e2 allows 12... ♗xe5 13 dxe5 ♖d5, winning a pawn.

12... ♖xd7 13 ♗e2 c4 14 ♙c2

14 ♙xc4 loses to 14... ♖c6.

14... ♖c6 15 f3 a5 16 ♗g3 ♙d6 17 ♗e4 ♗xe4 18 ♙xe4

18 fxe4 looks clumsy, but does allow White to follow up with 19 ♖g4.

18... ♖c7 19 ♙xb7 ♖xb7 20 e4 0-0 21 ♙e3 ♗fc8 22 ♖e2 ♗c7 23 ♗fd1 ♗ac8 24 ♖f2 c3 25 b3 c2 26 ♗dc1 ♗c3 27 ♗a2 ♗xb3 28 ♖d2 ♗8c3

Adrian Condé pointed out a quicker win after the game: 28... ♗xe3! 29 ♖xe3 b3. Perhaps Black missed the fact that 30 ♗b2 did not work on account of 30... ♙a3! 31 ♗xb3 ♖xb3 32 ♖xb3 ♙xc1.

29 ♙f2 ♖c7 30 e5 ♙e7 31 ♗axc2 ♗xc2 32 ♗xc2 ♗c3 33 ♗b2 b3 34 ♗b1 ♙a3 35 ♙e3 ♖c4 36 h3 h6 37 ♗h2 b2 38 ♙xh6!

A desperate attempt to obtain a perpetual check.

38... g×h6 39 ♖×h6 ♖d5 40 ♗e1 ♗c1 41 ♗e4 ♖xe4! 42 fxe4 ♙f8 43 ♖g5+ ♙g7 44 ♖d8+ ♗h7 45 ♖h4+ ♙h6 46 ♖f6 ♗c7 47 0-1

47 ♖f1 ♙c1 48 ♖d3 ♙f4+ wins.

Liverpool Daily Post, 22nd January, 1909.

6048 Not all the games claimed to have been played in simultaneous displays have been correctly attributed. Here is one example. A celebrated problemist defeats the World Champion on even terms during Steinitz's visit to Canada.

□ JN Babson

■ W Steinitz

Montreal, 1893
KGA, Muzio C37

[Smith]

1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 ♗f3 g5 4 ♙c4 g4 5 0-0 g×f3 6 ♖×f3 ♖f6 7 e5 ♖xe5 8 d3 ♙h6 9 ♙d2 ♗e7 10 ♙c3

Varying from the usual 10 ♗c3 ♗c6 11 ♗ae1 ♖f5.

10... ♖c5+ 11 ♗h1 ♗f8

I Kolisch–Berand, played at the Café Madrid, continued 11... 0-0 12 ♗d2 d5 13 ♗ae1 ♗bc6 14 b4 ♗xb4 15 ♖h5 ♗f5 16 ♗xf4! d4 17 ♗g4+ ♙g7 18 ♙xd4 ♗g3+ 19 ♗xg3 ♖xd4 20 ♖xf7+! ♗h8 21 ♖xf8+ ♙xf8 22 ♗g8#.

12 ♗d2 ♗bc6 13 ♗e4 ♖f5 14 ♗f6+ ♗d8 15 ♗ae1 d6 16 ♖e2 ♙e6 17 g4 ♖g6 18 ♙xe6 fxe6 19 ♖xe6 ♗xf6 20 ♙xf6 ♙g5 21 ♗xf4 ♙xf6 22 ♗xf6 ♖e8 23 ♗f7 ♗e5 24 ♗xh7 ♗5g6 26 h5 ♗e5 27 g5 ♗a6 28 g6 c5 29 g7 ♗g8 30 ♖xg8! 1-0

Montreal Gazette 23rd November 1893

6049 The practice of bringing in a strong player from another area into a team to strengthen the board order is nothing new. Over a century ago the North Manchester CC enlisted the help of H.E. Atkins and F.D. Yates for their premier fixtures against Liverpool, the City of London and the Metropolitan Clubs. Henry Atkins was the leading British player of the day and won all three of his outings for the club. Two of these have already appeared in *BCM*. Here is the other game, played at 'The Deansgate Hotel'.

□ Dr H Holmes

■ HE Atkins

Liverpool vs. North Manchester, 26th October, 1912
Benoni A43

[Smith]

1 d4 c5 2 d5 g6 3 ♖d2?

3 c4 or 3 ♘c3 are both stronger.

3...e5! 4 ♖c3

This achieves little, but 4 dxe6 dxe6 5 ♖c3 ♗xd1+ 6 ♖xd1 f6 leaves Black with a better game.

4...d6 5 f4 f6 6 e3? ♙g7 7 h4 ♗e7 8 fxe5 fxe5 9 ♗d2 ♗f6 10 e4

He might have played this at move 6.

10...♗h5 11 ♖b5+ ♗d7 12 ♗e2 a6 13 ♗d3 ♗df6 14 ♗f1 ♗g4 15 ♖d2

White had little choice: 15 ♗d2? ♖h6.

15...♗f8 16 ♖e3?

His fourth move with this piece allows Black a simple combination.

16...♗xf1+ 0-1

17 ♗xf1 ♗xe3 and Black wins a piece.

Manchester Weekly Times, 2nd November 1912.

This debacle set the tone for an uncompromising match and by the time Blackburne (as adjudicator – Ed.) gave Yates the verdict over Edmund Spencer, not a single draw had been recorded. North Manchester won 10–6. Also see ‘Joseph Henry Blackburne: A Chess Biography’ – Tim Harding (McFarland 2015), p. 484.

6050 Yates made seven appearances for the club, four of those on top board, scoring +5 =1 –1. He did rather better in the matches with the London clubs, defeating Amos Burn, William Ward and Joseph Blake, and all with Black. Here is his last game for North Manchester.

□ D Miller

■ FD Yates

Metropolitan vs. North Manchester, 31st January, 1914

QGD, Classical D61

[Smith]

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♗c3 ♗f6 4 ♙g5 ♙e7 5 e3 ♗bd7 6 ♗f3 0-0 7 ♗c2 a6 8 cxd5 exd5 9 ♙d3 h6 10 ♙h4 c5 11 ♗d1?!

11 dxc5 ♗xc5 12 ♙e2 gives White play against the IQP.

11...c4! 12 ♙e2 b5 13 ♗e5 ♖b7 14 0-0 ♗e4 15 ♙xe7 ♗xe7 16 ♗xd7

16 f4 is thematic.

16...♗xd7 17 ♗xe4 dxe4 18 a4?

‘This surely is bad policy, as Black has three pawns to two on the queen’s side’ – Gunsberg. 18 f3 is obligatory.

18...♙d5! 19 axb5 axb5 20 ♖a1 ♖a7! 21 ♖xa7 ♗xa7 22 ♗c3 ♖a8 23 ♖c1 ♗a5 24 ♗c2 ♗b4 25 ♗c3 ♗e7 26 ♗c2 ♖a2 27 ♗b1 ♗a7 28 ♙d1 ♗a5

Threatening a snap mate.

29 ♙c2 f5 30 h3 b4 31 ♙d1

31 b3 loses to 31...c3 32 ♙d1 ♖b2 33 ♗a1 ♗xa1 34 ♖xa1 ♙xb3.

31...b3 32 ♙h5

Neither 32 ♖c3 ♖a1 nor 32 ♙e2 c3 is any better, says Gunsberg.

32...♗d2 33 ♖f1 ♖xb2 34 ♗a1 ♖a2 35 ♗b1 c3 36 0-1

Manchester Guardian 2nd February, 1914.

6051 The record margin of victory in a BCF Championship is two points. This record was set back in the days of all-play-all tournaments at the 1926 Congress in Scotland. In the absence of the other previous champions, Frederick Yates looked a clear favourite. H.E. Atkins was not defending his title, while George Thomas preferred instead an international event being held at Spa in Belgium that September.

Yates started slowly. He lost, overpressing against Maurice Goldstein in Round 2, then got bogged down in a long endgame

against Gooding. This went to 142 moves and 16 hours and was not finished until after Round 8. Meanwhile, Reginald Michell won six in a row. Here is a good example of Yates's play from Round 4.

□ FD Yates
■ CB Heath

British Championships, Edinburgh, 1926
Ruy Lopez, Classical C64 [Smith]

1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♜c6 3 ♙b5 ♙c5 4 c3 f5 5 d4 exd4 6 cxd4

Pachman recommends 6 e5.

6... ♙b4+ 7 ♙d2 ♙xd2+ 8 ♜xd2 fxex4 9 ♜xe4 d5 10 ♜c3 ♜f6 11 0-0 0-0 12 ♙xc6! bxc6 13 ♜e5 ♞d6 14 ♜a4 ♙a6 15 ♜e1 ♙b5 16 ♜c5 a5 17 a4 ♙a6 18 ♙xc6! ♜e4

If 18... ♞xc6 then 19 ♜e6! traps Christopher Heath's queen.

19 ♜xe4 ♞xc6 20 ♜c5 ♞f6 21 ♞d2 ♙c8 22 ♜a3 ♞f4 23 ♞xf4 ♜xf4 24 ♜d3 ♙f5 25 ♜d2 ♙g6

White has an extra pawn and by far the better minor piece. Yates converted his advantage.

26 f3 ♜b8 27 ♜e7 ♜f7 28 ♜e5 ♜f5 29 ♜xf5 ♙xf5 30 ♙f2 ♙f7 31 g4 ♙c8 32 ♙e3 ♜b6 33 ♜c2 ♙e7 34 h4 g6 35 ♜h2 h6 36 b3 ♜b4 37 ♙d3 ♜b6 38 ♜e2+ ♙f7 39 ♜e5 ♜d6 40 ♙e3 ♜d8 41 ♙f4 ♜d6 42 ♜e3 ♜d8 43 ♜c3 ♙e7 44 ♜d3 ♙d6 45 ♜e5 ♜f8+ 46 ♙e3 ♙d7 47 ♜xg6 ♜e8+ 48 ♙d2 ♜e6 49 h5 ♙e8 50 ♜e3 ♙xg6 51 ♜xe6+ ♙xe6 52 hxg6 ♙f6 53 b4 ♙xg6 54 bxa5 1-0

Glasgow Herald 6th August, 1926.

Yates did not catch Michell until he finally won against Gooding. The next day he met Michell; they were a point and a half ahead of their closest rival, so clearly the championship rested on their individual encounter.

□ FD Yates

■ RP Michell

British Championships, Edinburgh, 1926
Exchange Winawer C01 [Smith]

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♜c3 ♙b4 4 exd5 exd5 5 ♙d3 ♜c6 6 ♜ge2 ♜ge7 7 0-0 0-0 8 a3 ♙xc3 9 bxc3 ♜f5

9... ♙f5 makes more sense.

10 ♜g3 ♜d6 11 ♞f3 ♜e7 12 ♜e1 c6 13 ♞h5 ♜g6?

This is not best. As the sequel shows, 13...g6! is correct and if 14 ♞e2 then 14... ♜ef5 and the weakened dark squares can be shielded.

14 ♙g5! f6

Black has no choice but to play this: 14... ♞c7 15 ♙e7 ♜e8 16 ♙xd6 ♜xe1+ 17 ♜xe1 ♞xd6 18 ♜e8+ wins his queen or mates.

15 ♙h4!

Black has no way to reinforce g6.

15... ♞d7 16 ♙xg6 hxg6 17 ♞xg6 ♞g4 18 ♞xg4 ♙xg4 19 f3 ♙d7 20 ♜f1 ♜e8

White's extra pawn is doubled, but he does have a 3-2 pawn majority on the kingside. Conversely, White's split pawns on the other wing make an inviting target.

21 a4 ♜c4 22 g4 g5 23 ♙f2 ♜xe1 24 ♙xe1 ♙e8 25 h4 ♙g6 26 hxg5 fxg5 27 ♜c1 ♜e8?

27...b5! pointed out by H.J. Menzies, in 'The Illustrated London News', creates an important passed pawn and gives the second player real winning chances.

28 ♙f2 ♙g7 29 ♙d2 ♙f6 30 ♙e3 ♜a3 31 f4 gxf4 32 ♙xf4 ♜xc2 33 ♜g3

White makes light of the loss of a doubled pawn.

33... ♜a3 34 ♜h1 ♜c4 35 ♙f3 ♙f7 36 ♜f5! ♙xf5

Exchanging the intruding knight does not reduce White's pressure.

37 gxh5 ♙g7?

The prelude to the decisive error. 37... ♙f6 38

♖h7 ♜xg5 39 ♜xb7 should be okay for Black.

38 ♜g4 ♜h8??

A blunder in an awkward position. White has an edge after 38...♜e7 39 ♜h6 ♜f7 40 ♜e6. Black is running out of moves and does not want to move his knight allowing ♜e5+.

39 f6+ ♜g8 40 f7+ ♜g7 41 ♜xh8 1-0

Glasgow Herald 12th August, 1926.

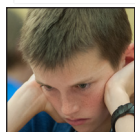
The next day it was all over. Michell lost to A.R.B. Thomas, with White in 20 moves, so that when Yates drew with Saunders he had regained his title. Yates won again in Round 11; Michell drew to secure second place. Yates +9 =1 -1, Michell +6 =3 -2, Blake +6 =1 -4, Goldstein +5 =3 -3 and Saunders +5 =2 -4.

The Shock of the New

Theo Slade

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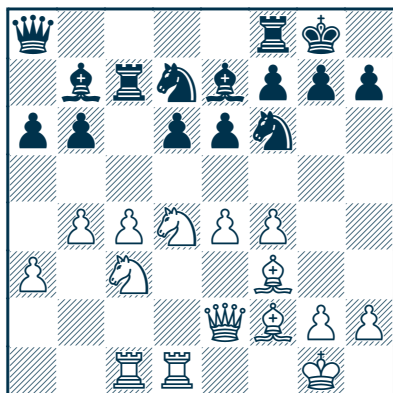
Critical Positions



□ T Slade

■ K Kalavannan

British Championship, 2015



○

Thus far in the game I'd been steadily outplaying my opponent, but now the game turns into a tactical mess.

19 f5?

A poor move according to Stockfish, but I quite liked it and Koby went wrong immediately after this.

19 e5! is by far the most natural break, but I didn't acknowledge this during the game. I was fixated on f5 for some reason, which in retrospect seems awfully misguided. I think that there were a lot of variations to calculate, so maybe I couldn't be bothered to calculate them, was too tired or didn't find the break very natural. None of these explanations seem to fit very well, so I'm not really sure. The only thing is that after f5 and ...e5, the d5 square is a bit weak, so I probably thought "That's a strategical plus, let's go for that with no more questions asked". Whatever the thought process, it seems acceptable, but somewhat mysterious. The outpost on d6 is very juicy, you know! 19... dxe5 20 fxe5 ♜xf3 21 ♜xf3 ♜g4 22 ♜g3± This position (perhaps irrationally) reminds me of a Catalan gone wrong for Black. White's advanced e-pawn, supporting a kingside attack and an outpost on d6, looks very powerful. Furthermore, Black's pieces are very cramped and disjointed – there's no coordination or single point that they're

ganging up on. However, White has very well centralised pieces and I'd love to play this position for White here. But how could I miss this when we're only 3½ moves away from the game?

19...♖fc8?

19...e5! is so natural and I couldn't believe it when Koby avoided this obvious reply. However, perhaps he was afraid of 20 ♖e6!! I briefly considered this sacrifice in my opponent's time, and who knows whether or not I'd have gone for it? It certainly looks interesting and after 20...fxe6 21 fxe6 ♖b8 22 ♘d5 ♙x d5 23 exd5 White has definite compensation. In fact, I'd rather be White here, as it's easier to play with the space, pawn and bishop pair rather than with the cramped pieces, extra knight and worse pawn structure.

20 fxe6

20 e5.

20...fxe6 21 ♖b1?

I spent 16½ minutes on this move, but pretty much any other sensible move would've been better. This is what happens when you think for too long – you begin to doubt yourself and make mistakes.

21 c5 was just about winning, but only by a hair's breadth. I saw 21...♖f8 22 ♖a2+– and liked the idea of this “queen swing”, but it never quite materialised in the game.

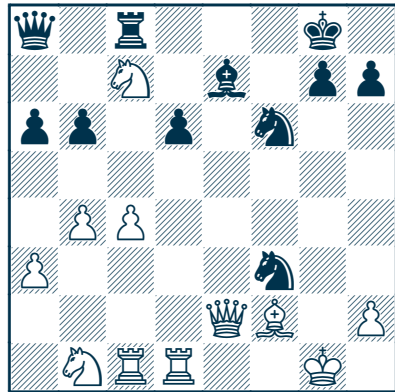
21...♙xe4?!

21...e5! was again natural, taking away (sort of) the weakness of the central hanging pawns. My knights aren't very well placed (!) to exploit the d5 square for the moment, so Black can rest easy from that point of view. Having said all of that, White retains a small edge after 22 ♖e6 ♖c6.

22 ♖xe6 ♙xf3 23 gxf3 ♖e5!?

I'd completely missed this idea, but luckily for me I still have a large advantage. 23...♖a7!?± is the top line of Stockfish 6, but now I can continue with my grinding and I'd back myself to win from here. However, the text gives Black a lot more practical chances.

24 ♖xc7 ♖xf3+



This is by far the most critical move of the game. White has four legal moves: ♖xf3, ♖f1, ♖g2 and ♖h1. One retains a large advantage for White, one leads to an even position and the other two are completely lost. Obviously, ♖xf3 is one of the latter pair, so that leaves the king moves. Which one would you play? Set up the position, give yourself 10 minutes on the clock (if you're feeling generous!) and try your hardest to work it out.... Remember: the best way to improve is to try exercises for yourself!

25 ♖g2??

A horrible move; I don't even know what I missed. 25 ♖h1! looked rubbish, but would have secured a draw for sure, or a large advantage for more adventurous souls. White is under tremendous pressure, but if you can apply Caruana-style coolness (particularly with little time on the clock), then the win will be yours. However, if I'd played this then I'd probably have ended up going for the draw! 25... ♖xc7 26 ♙xb6 ♖e1+ 27 ♖g1 ♖f3+ 28 ♖f1! (28 ♖h1?–) 28...♖c8 29 ♖c3±.

25 ♖f1? isn't the best move, but it does lead to an equal position, so well done if you found it – at least it was better than my choice! 25... ♖xh2+ 26 ♖g1 ♖f3+ 27 ♖f1 ♖xc7 (27... ♖h2+= is an immediate draw) 28 ♙xb6 ♖c8 29 ♖xe7 ♖h2+ 30 ♖g1 ♖e8 31 ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 32 ♖xh2= is one crazy computer line, that ends with its favourite “0.00”!

25...♖h4+ 26 ♖g3 ♖g2+ 27 ♖f4 ♖d5+

28 ♖xd5

Koby missed this, but luckily for him he's still winning.

28... ♖f8+ 29 ♔e3 ♖f3+ 30 ♔d2 ♖xf2 31 ♖e1 ♖f3+ 32 ♔e3 ♖g5+ 33 ♔d3 ♖xe1+

34 ♖xe1 ♖f3+ 35 ♔d4 ♖f6+ 36 ♖e5 ♖xe5+

Let's give some credit to Koby – it takes a lot of guts to play the way he did, and he got his reward... this time!

0-1

Endgames for Experts

GM Nick Pert

nickpert@hotmail.com



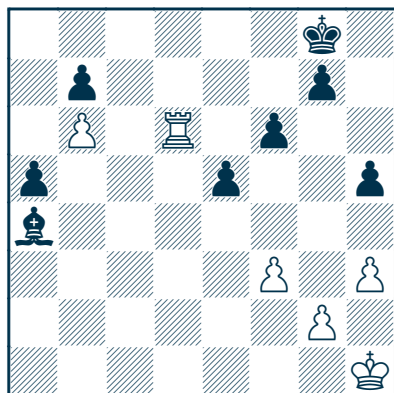
In our first game we see a top-class GM make a mess of an endgame. Admittedly it's a rapid game, but it's interesting to see!

□ PV Svidler

■ D Khismatullin

St Petersburg Rapid, 2015

[Pert]



39 ♖d8+?

39 ♖d5! ♖f7 40 ♖xa5 ♖b3 (40... ♖c6? 41 ♖c5 threatens ♖xc6 and effectively wins as ♖c7 is coming next) 41 ♖c5 ♖e6 42 ♖c7 ♖d5 43 ♖xg7 with a decisive advantage to White.

39... ♖f7 40 ♖c8 ♖e6 41 ♖c7?

Svidler goes after the b-pawn, but neglects the a-pawn! 41 ♖c5 was still the better option.

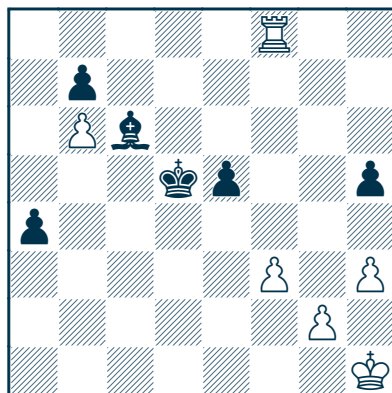
41... ♖d6!

41... ♖c6?? 42 ♖xc6+.

42 ♖xg7?!

This move hands the initiative to Black. 42 ♖xb7 ♖c6 43 ♖xg7 ♖xb6 44 ♖g6 ♖c6 45 ♖xf6 a4 46 ♖f5 e4 (46... a3 47 ♖xe5 a2 48 ♖e1 when White has all the winning chances as it will take Black some time to win the rook for the a-pawn) 47 fxe4 ♖xe4 48 ♖f4 ♖c2 49 ♖f2 ♖d3 50 g4 hxg4 51 hxg4 ♖c5 should draw.

42... ♖c6 43 ♖f7 a4 44 ♖xf6+ ♖d5 45 ♖f8



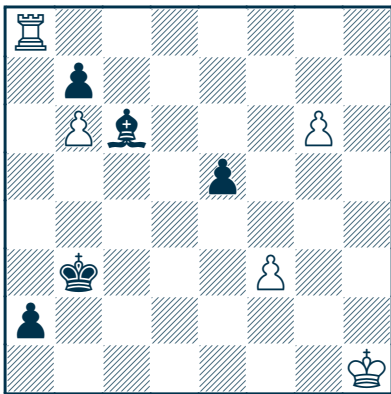
45 ♖f5! ♖d4 (45... a3 46 f4! Allows the rook to get back) 46 ♖xh5 a3 47 ♖h8 ♖c3 48 ♖h2

a2 49 ♖a8 ♖b3 Threatening ...♙a4. 50 ♖xa2 ♙xa2 51 ♖g3 ♖b3 52 h4 ♖c4 53 h5 ♙d7 54 ♖h4 ♙d5! There is no time to take the b-pawn – Black must get the king back as quickly as possible! 55 ♖g5 (55 h6?! ♙f5 56 ♖g5 ♖e6) 55... ♖e6 when Black has the better chances in a double-edged game.

45...♙c4 46 g4

This feels wrong, as it leaves f3 en prise with check. Maybe ♖a8 was better, although it is still very tough for White.

46...h×g4 47 h×g4 a3 48 g5 a2 49 ♖a8 ♖b3 50 g6



50 ♖g2! would lay a trap. 50...♙a4? (50...♙e8 probably still wins for Black) 51 g6 a1 ♖ 52 g7 and White will queen this pawn!

50...♙×f3+ 51 ♖h2 ♙d5

The rest seems pretty straightforward.

52 ♖a5 ♖b4 53 ♖a8 ♖c3 54 ♖a5 ♙c4 55 ♖a4 ♙e6 56 ♖a5 ♙c4 57 ♖a4 ♖b2 58 ♖×c4 a1 ♖ 59 g7 ♖a8 60 ♖g4 ♖g8 0–1



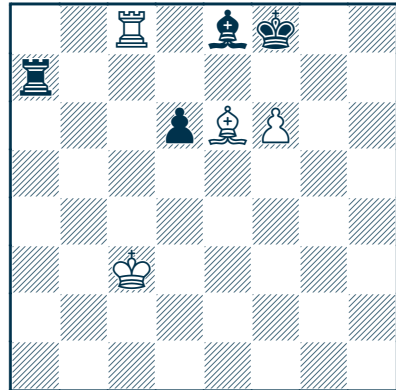
In this endgame, from another rapid game, Black feels a bit tied down and makes a radical decision!

□ A Shirov

■ K Alekseenko

St Petersburg Rapid, 2015

[Pert]



47...♙f7?

47...♖a5! 48 ♖d4 (48 f7 ♖c5+)= 48...♙d5!! is a beautiful way to hold the draw! 49 ♖×d5 stalemate.

48 ♙×f7 ♖×f7 49 ♖d8 ♙b5 50 ♖×d6

I have had this kind of endgame once myself, against Jonathan Mestel. It is remarkably tricky to break through because the bishop can control the e6 and g6 squares in many lines, so you need to manoeuvre him out of position. Shirov does a great job to start with, but misses his chances and fails to get there in the end. From here on his opponent defends remarkably well.

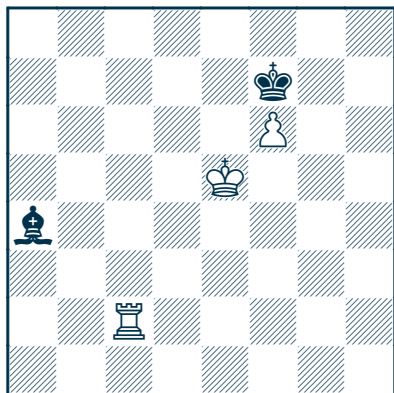
50...♙a4 51 ♖b6

The key to winning seems to be to keep the bishop off the a2–g8 diagonal.

51...♙d1 52 ♖d4 ♙e2 53 ♖c6 ♙d1 54 ♖b6

Both players seem to understand this, as Shirov continues to manoeuvre in order to stop the bishop reaching this diagonal.

54...♙e2 55 ♖b2 ♙f1 56 ♖c2 ♙b5 57 ♖e5 ♙a4



After some strong play, Shirov misses a chance to take a relatively easy win.

58 ♖b2

58 ♖c7+ ♕f8 59 ♕f5 wins, as the bishop cannot threaten to cover e6 and g6.

58...♗c6 59 ♖b4 ♕f3 60 ♕f5?

Giving away the key diagonal and the win. 60 ♖c4 ♕d1 61 ♖c7+ ♕f8 62 ♕f5 would still win.

60...♗d5 61 ♕e5 ♗a2

The bishop is now well placed to cover e6/g6 squares.

62 ♖b2

The rest of the game is instructive, as Black moves his pieces around carefully, preventing White from winning.

62...♗c4 63 ♕d4 ♗e6 64 ♕e5 ♗c4 65 ♖b7+ ♕f8 66 ♖c7 ♗a2 67 ♖c2 ♗b3 68 ♖c8+ ♕f7 69 ♖c7+ ♕f8 70 ♕f5 ♗d5 71 ♖c5 ♗a2 72 ♖a5 ♗b3 73 ♖b5 ♗c4 74 ♖b7 ♗d5 75 ♖b2 ♗c4 76 ♖d2 ♗b3 77 ♖b2 ♗c4 78 ♖b4

Great defence from Black.

1/2-1/2



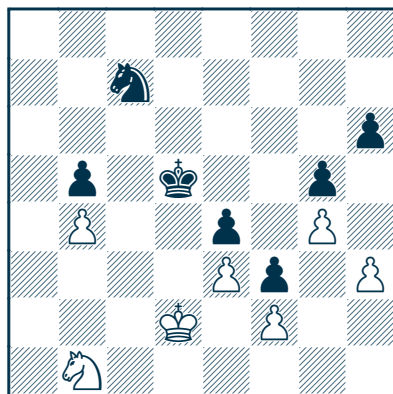
The following endgame from the French Championships is finely balanced. Objectively it is equal but both sides have some chances to press for the advantage.

□ C Bauer

■ A Istratescu

French Ch., 2015

[Pert]



47...♕c4

47...♕e5 48 ♖c3 ♖a6 is safe. Maybe Black is trying to win.

48 ♖c3 ♕xb4 49 ♖xe4 ♗a3 50 ♕d3!

Bauer realises that the best strategy is to sacrifice his knight for the passed b-pawn and infiltrate the kingside with his king.

50...b4 51 ♖d2 b3 52 ♕e4 ♕b4

52...b2 53 ♖c4+.

53 ♖xb3!

The pawn is more powerful than the knight. This is the time to make the sacrifice, as otherwise Black may play b2 and then it will not be possible. Notice how on the previous move b2 could have been met by ♖c4+, eliminating the pawn.

53...♕xb3 54 ♕xf3 ♕c4 55 ♕e4 ♖d5

55...♕c5 56 ♕f5 ♕d6 57 ♕g6 ♕e5 58 ♕xh6 ♕f6 59 f4 ♖e6 should hold with some care

from Black.

56 ♖e5 ♗c5 57 ♖f5 ♖c3

57...♗d6 58 ♖g6 ♖e5 59 ♖xh6 ♖f6 seems like the more obvious plan for Black. 60 ♖h5 ♖c3 61 h4 gxh4 62 ♖xh4 ♖e4.

58 ♖g6 ♖d1 59 f4

I suspect that Black underestimated this move.

59...gx f4

59...♖xe3 60 f5 ♗d6 61 ♖xh6 ♖e7 62 ♖xg5 ♖f7 should still hold, but the pawns are further advanced than they needed to be, so now Black must tread a thin line. Glenn Flear once told me that if the pawns are on the 5th rank, this position is winning, but on the 4th rank it's a draw!

60 exf4 ♖f2?

The first serious mistake. 60...♗d6 61 ♖xh6 ♖e6 (61...♖e7? 62 ♖g7 ♖f2 63 f5 ♖xh3 64 f6+ ♗d7 65 f7 ♖g5 66 f8 ♖e6+ 67 ♖f7 ♖xf8 68 ♖xf8 ♖e6 69 ♖g7 and White wins) 62 ♖g6 ♖f2 63 f5+ ♖e5 64 f6 ♖xh3 65 f7 ♖f4+ 66 ♖g7 ♖e6+ draws.

61 f5?

61 ♖xh6 ♖xh3 62 f5 transposes to the winning game continuation without allowing ...♗d6-e5.

61...♖xh3

61...♗d6! would draw. Black seems to have neglected bringing his king into the defence throughout this whole endgame, preferring knight moves. 62 ♖xh6 (62 f6 ♖xh3 63 ♖xh6 ♖e6 64 ♖g6 ♖f4+ 65 ♖g7 ♖e5 66 g5 ♖f5 67 f7 ♖e6+=) 62...♖e5! 63 ♖g6 ♖xh3 64 f6 ♖f4+ 65 ♖f7 ♖d5 66 g5 ♖f5 67 ♖g7 ♖xg5 68 f7 ♖f4=.

62 ♖xh6! ♗d6

Too late!

63 g5! ♖f2

63...♖e7 64 f6+ ♖f7 65 g6+ ♖xf6 66 g7 ♖f7 67 ♖h7 ♖g5+ 68 ♖h8 wins for White.

64 f6! ♗d7 65 f7

The f-pawn will queen, so Black resigned.

1-0

Guest Columnist

IM Yang-Fan Zhou

yfz20@cam.ac.uk



I had quite a shock arriving at the board for this game – the name tag opposite mine was not who I had expected. Unfortunately for me I managed

to prepare for the wrong opponent!

□ C Horvath

■ Y-F Zhou

Budapest, 2015

King's Indian E70

[Zhou]

1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♖c3 ♖g7 4 e4 0-0 5 ♗g5 d6 6 ♗d2

White has many options in the King's Indian

Defence, and getting caught off guard can be rather unpleasant. On the upside, playing the KID all my life has given me a certain feel for the positions and usually I can come up with reasonable plans. I would recommend seeing Chinese GM Ding Liren's games for a deeper understanding of the KID.

6...♖a6

Preparing ...e5. 6...e5 is no longer possible with the bishop on g5 due to 7 dxe5 dxe5 8 ♗xd8 ♖xd8 9 ♖d5.

6...c5 is the most played move and after 7 d5 I like 7...a6 preparing b5 – Black will also be playing e6 to challenge White's centre.

7 ♗d3 c6 8 ♖ge2 e5 9 d5 ♗d7

The immediate 9...♖c5 has been played before, but looks as if it would just transpose into the game after 10 ♖c2 cxd5 11 exd5 ♖b6 12 0-0 ♗d7 (12...♗xb2? 13 ♖fb1 ♗a3 14 ♗b5).

10 0-0 ♗c5 11 ♖c2 cxd5 12 exd5!

Opening up the c2 bishop and intending to play on the kingside. After 12 cxd5 a5 Black has nothing to worry about.

12...♖b6 13 ♖ab1 a5 14 ♗g3

Cutting out ...♗h5 and ...f5 plans. The position was quite tricky to handle as Black, since White can play on the queenside with b3, a3, b4 kicking the c5 knight, and also with ♖h1 and f4. I needed a plan which could deal with both.

14...♖f8!

This certainly makes me stronger on the queenside, but it appears f4 will be crushing now that the rook is no longer on f8.

A natural move would be 14...♖fe8, but after 15 ♖h1 f4 is going to be very strong.

15 ♖h1 ♗e8!

My opponent had a very long think here as he suddenly realised that the point of my last move is to play for ...f5 – the e8 square is kept open for the knight, and now the rook has moved it won't be trapped by ...♗e7.

16 f4 f5

16...f6 first to push the bishop to a worse square would have been nice, but I was rightly worried about 17 fxg5 (17 ♗h4 f5 would give a much improved version of the game) 17...fxg5 18 e6 ♗xe6 19 dxe6 ♗xe6 20 ♗d5 ♗xd5 21 ♖xd5+ ♖h8. I hadn't seen anything concrete here for White, but my instincts were correct as the computer points out 22 ♗h5!! gxh5? 23 ♖e4.

17 fxg5 dxe5

I was rather overconfident about my position here – it seemed like I was going to take over after ...♗d6, but I completely underestimated White's next.

18 ♗h6!

Trading bishops makes my king much more vulnerable.

18...f4

18...♗h8 was what I wanted to play, but then 19 ♗xf5! gxg5 20 ♗xf5 ♗xf5 21 ♖xf5 ♗g7 22 ♗xg7 ♗xg7 23 ♖xe5 and my open king gives White the upper hand

After 18...♗d6 19 ♗xg7 ♗xg7 20 ♗h5+ White can force at least a perpetual.

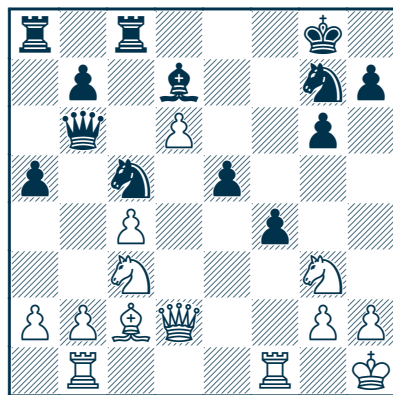
19 ♗xg7

My opponent offered me a draw here, which I declined as I thought I would be better after...

19...♗xg7

19...♗xg7 20 ♖be1! gives White a strong attack: 20...fxg3 21 ♖xe5 ♖d8 22 ♖f4 ♗d6 (22...♗f6 23 d6) 23 ♖xg3.

20 d6!



I have to admit that I completely overlooked this move and was rather shocked by it. I had been looking forward to a clear edge after a knight retreat. The combined effect of this shock and having just declined his draw offer certainly put me off during the game and I couldn't find a good move. It's important to keep your calm during the game, no matter the circumstances, and in the case that you are unsettled, taking a couple seconds of "time out" to calm yourself is certainly worth it.

20...♗e6?

20...♖h8! to deal with ♗d5 ideas is clearly much stronger 21 ♗ge4?! (21 b3! is the computer

move 21...fxg3 22 ♖xg6! h×g6 23 ♜d5 ♖×d6 24 ♖h6+ ♜g8 25 ♜f6+ ♖×f6 26 ♜×f6 ♙f5 with three pieces for the queen – there are chances for both sides; or 21 ♜ge2 ♜e8) 21...♜xe4 22 ♙xe4 ♜xc4 23 ♖d5 ♜c5 24 ♖xb7 ♖xb7 25 ♙xb7 ♜b8 26 ♙f3 ♜f5 gives me a very pleasant endgame.

20...fxg3? 21 ♜d5 is the idea, after which a crushing attack follows: 21...♖d8 22 ♜f6+ ♜h8 23 ♖h6.

21 ♜d5 ♙xd5 22 ♖×d5+ ♜h8 23 ♜e4

23 ♜e2! looks much more passive, but by keeping the black knight on c5 I am no longer able to kick the white queen with ...♜c5 – the knight now heads to b5. 23...♜e8 24 ♜c3 ♜ad8 25 ♜b5 and White has the upper hand with the strong passed pawn on d6

23 d7 ♜xd7! is possible 24 ♖xd7 ♜xc4 25 ♙b3 ♜c7 26 ♖d5 fxg3 27 ♖xe5 ♖c5 with equality.

23...♜xe4 24 ♙xe4 ♜c5 25 ♖xb7 ♖xb7 26 ♙xb7 ♜d8

The dust settles and we arrive in an endgame where I will get my pawn back and have a small

initiative if White is not careful. 26...♜b8 is no good due to 27 d7.

27 b4

My opponent was short of time here and was looking to simplify matters – a good practical decision.

27 b3, keeping more pawns on the board would have been more ambitious 27...♜f5 28 ♜fd1 ♜g7 29 ♙e4 ♜d4.

27...axb4 28 ♜xb4 ♜f5 29 ♜b5 ♜xc4 30 ♜xe5 ♜xd6 31 ♜e4! ♜c7

31...♜xe4 32 ♙xe4 ♜e3 33 ♜b1 ♜d2 34 a4 ♜a2 35 ♙c6 is fine for White.

32 ♜b4 ♜e3

32...♜d2 33 a4 ♜e3 34 ♜fb1 ♜cc2 (34...♜dc2 35 ♜g1 (35 h3 ♜c1+ 36 ♜h2 ♜f1+ 37 ♜g1)) 35 a5 ♜xg2 36 a6.

33 ♜fb1 ♜d2 34 h4

After some accurate moves by White my initiative fizzles out.

34...♜xa2 35 ♜xf4 ♜g7 ½–½

Chess Questions Answered

IM Gary Lane

garylanebcm@y7mail.com

Brave New World



The Sveshnikov Sicilian is famous for attracting long, complicated lines of theory, but is there a shortcut for those who have less time to study? This is

the question posed by Robert Woodard Ayr who has been trying to remember the moves but is failing. I think that playing the c3 Sicilian or something similar to avoid the

main lines is fine, but if you only have a problem with the Sveshnikov then there is another option. I would suggest 7 ♜d5, which has a reputation for being a positional line, but a number of recent games have revealed that there are aggressive possibilities. In the following example an opening trap indicates how easy it is for Black to go wrong.

□ G Kuparadze

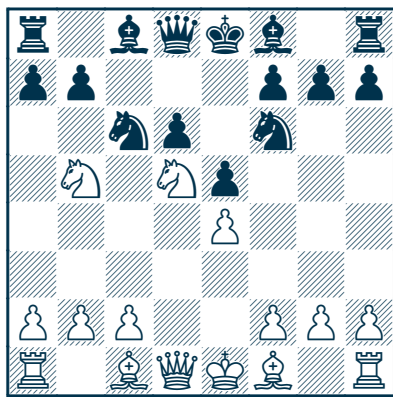
■ V Ahmadow

Baku, 2008

Sicilian Sveshnikov B33

[Gary Lane]

1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 ♜c6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♜f6
5 ♜c3 e5 6 ♜db5 d6 7 ♘d5



The best thing about this knight move is that it forces Black to abandon all knowledge of the long main line stemming from 7 ♖g5. Instead, a fresh challenge awaits, where White has all the fun of introducing potentially dangerous positions in the opening.

7...♘d5 8 exd5 ♘e7

This natural move has a poor reputation, but is certainly an almost automatic reply if Black is not familiar with the positional niceties of the situation. The more popular alternative 8...♜b8 is examined in the other illustrative games.

9 c4 a6?

It is natural to nudge the knight away because it happens in so many similar lines, but this is flawed. Also possible:

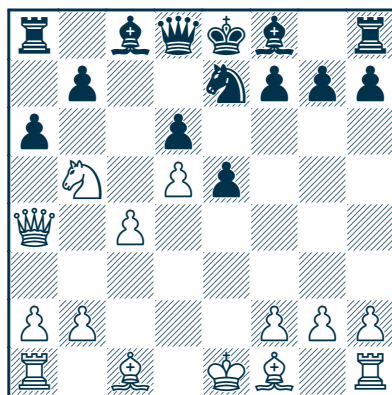
(a) 9...♜g6 10 ♜d3 (10 ♜e2 has in the past been the choice of Michael Adams) 10...♜e7 11 0-0 f5 12 c5 a6 (12...dxc5? leads to ruin – for instance: 13 d6 ♜xd6 14 ♘xd6+ ♜xd6 15 ♜b5+ ♜e7 16 ♖g5+ ♜e6 17 ♜b3+ ♜d5 18 ♜xd5+ ♜xd5 19 ♜fd1+ ♜e4 20 f3#) 13 cxd6 ♜xd6 14

♜xd6+ (I think 14 ♖g5 also looks good) 14... ♜xd6 15 a4 ♜d7 16 ♜c4 0-0 17 b3 b5 18 ♜a3 with a winning position, Pengxiang Zhang–Shan Du, Tianjing 2003.

(b) 9...g6? allows the powerful 10 ♜a4! ♜d7 (10...♜d7 11 ♜xd6#) 11 ♘xd6+ ♜d8 12 ♜xf7+ and Black can put the pieces back into the box.

(c) 9...♜f5 10 ♜d3 or 10...g6 11 0-0 a6 12 ♜c3 ♖g7 13 ♜b1 (13 ♜e4; 13 ♜e4 0-0 14 b3 with equal chances) 13...0-0 14 b4 ♜d4 15 ♜e3 when chances are even; D Sengupta–J Durandea, Palma de Mallorca, 2009.

10 ♜a4!



This tricky move swings the position heavily in White's favour. In old games such as S Tatai–R Jamieson, Haifa, 1976, White would instantly play 10 ♜c3, but nowadays the improvement is in the repertoire of top players.

10...axb5

An admission that the opening has gone seriously wrong. The problem for Black is that losing the exchange is the best option in the dire circumstances. For instance: 10...♜b8? 11 ♜c7#, 10...♜d7 11 ♘xd6# or even 10...♜d7 11 ♘xd6+ ♜d8 12 ♜xf7+ wins.

11 ♜xa8 ♜d7

It is difficult for Black to find a way to struggle on, which has been reflected in other games:

(a) 11...bxc4 12 ♜xc4 f5 13 f4 g6 14 fxe5

dx e5 15 ♖g5 ensuring victory in a short while; S Solomon–S Grigg, Parramatta, 2009.

(b) 11... ♖f5 12 cxb5 ♖d4 13 ♖d3 ♖e7 14 ♖e3 0–0 15 ♖c1 f5 16 0–0 winning easily; L Oll–T Herczeg, Budapest, 1989.

12 a4 b4 13 c5 ♖c7 14 ♖b5+ ♔d8 15 cxd6 ♖xd6 16 ♖e3 ♖f5 17 ♖c1 1–0



The main line begins with 8... ♖b8, but once again White can play something a bit different.

□ L Chen

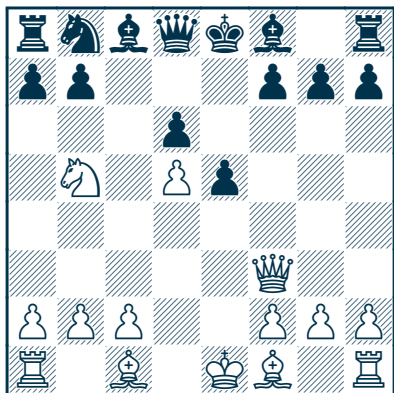
■ U Atakisi

Albena, 2015

Sicilian Sveshnikov B33

[Gary Lane]

1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 ♖c6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♖xd4 ♖f6 5 ♖c3 e5 6 ♖db5 d6 7 ♖d5 ♖xd5 8 exd5 ♖b8 9 ♖f3!?



I think this crafty queen move could catch out a lot of players of the black pieces because it introduces a variety of tricky ideas. The bonus is that even a dedicated Sveshnikov devotee might not take it seriously, because for instance in Gambit's book *The Complete Sveshnikov Sicilian* by Yuri Yakovich it is not

even mentioned. Instead 9 a4, 9 ♖e3 and the main continuation 9 c4 are examined.

9...a6 10 ♖a3

The point of the early queen manoeuvre is revealed as the pin on the a-file safeguards the knight from imminent danger.

10...♖e7

Black just carries on developing, but other moves have been tested:

(a) 10...b6 11 ♖g5 (*perhaps 11 c4 should be considered*) 11...f6 (or 11... ♖xg5 12 ♖c7+ ♖d7 13 ♖xa8 ♖d8 14 ♖b4 with a big advantage) 12 ♖d2 ♖b7 13 ♖c3 led to equal opportunities; G Benson–F. Balabaev, correspondence, 2002.

11 ♖g5

It is at this point in a weekend tournament that your opponent will start thinking you are bluffing with such reckless play but it is the latest fashion. This line has been revived with the help of computer software and the dedication of masters.

11...f6

This looks ugly, but it is arguably the best way to fend off the immediate tactics. Instead:

(a) 11...b6 is discussed in the next main game.

(b) The big temptation is to grab the material and then see what happens, which occurred in D Solak–B Bogosavljevic, Vrsac, 2007, but Black should have realised that a grandmaster gives away a piece for a good reason: 11... ♖xg5? 12 ♖xd6+ ♖f8 13 ♖xc8+ ♖g8 (13... ♖e7 14 ♖xe7 ♖xe7 15 d6 ♖d7 16 0–0–0 is excellent for White) 14 ♖d6 ♖e7 15 ♖xb7, ensuring that White is on top.

12 ♖d2 0–0

Atakisi takes the sensible precaution of carrying on developing the queenside.

Instead, 12...a5 has been tested to avoid any problems associated with ♖a5 but 13 ♖c3 is surprising awkward for Black due to the obvious threat of ♖c7; for example 13... ♖a6 (or 13...0–0 14 ♖c7 ♖a7 15 ♖e3 wins) 14 ♖xa5 b6 15 ♖c3 ♖b7 16 ♖c4 with the better chances.

13 ♖b4

The most testing continuation, putting extra pressure on the d6 pawn. White can also enjoy a quiet life by playing 13 ♖e2, intending c2-c4 and kingside castling.

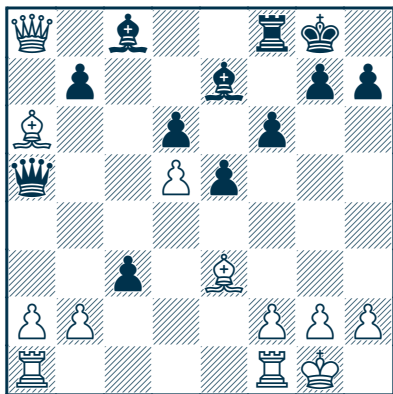
13...a×b5!?

This is a risky strategy to give up the exchange, but at first sight it appears to be the only viable option; otherwise Black will lose a pawn. However, if Black consumes a lot of time with a bit of luck they might find the expert move 13... ♖d7! 14 c4 (14 ♖xd6? a×b5 the difference is that with the queen on d8 White could now take on e7 15 ♖xa8 ♖xd6 and Black is much better 14 ♖xd6 runs into 14...a5! 15 ♖c5 b6 and White will lose material) 14...b6 15 ♖d2 is about level.

14 ♖xa8 ♖a6 15 ♖d2 ♖b6?!

It is hardly a surprise that Black is unable to play like a computer and defend accurately with 15... ♖c7, but even then there is no prospect of trapping the white queen. For instance: 16 c3 ♖c5 17 ♖e3 ♖xd5 18 f3 when White will retrieve his queen via the a7 square with the brighter prospects.

16 ♖e3 ♖a5+ 17 c3 b4 18 ♖xa6! b×c3 19 0-0



A nice twist to allow the white king to seek sanctuary and expose Black's initiative as being shallow.

19...c×b2 20 ♖ab1 bxa6 21 ♖×b2 ♖f5 22 ♖a7 ♖f7 23 ♖b7 ♖e8 24 ♖b6!

A neat way to prepare a way to crash through on the kingside.

24... ♖×d5 25 ♖d8 ♖xd8 26 ♖xe7+ ♖g6 27 ♖xg7+ ♖h6 28 ♖e7 ♖b8 29 ♖xf6+ ♖g6 30 ♖d7 ♖b4 31 ♖xd6 ♖c5 32 h3 ♖f4 33 ♖e7 ♖a5 34 g3 ♖a4 35 ♖fd1 ♖e4 36 ♖f8+ ♖h5 37 h4 ♖g4 38 ♖g2 ♖f4 39 ♖xg6+ h×g6 40 f3+ 1-0



Finally, the following game caught my eye as Black goes astray in the opening and White manages to win style:

□ L Perpinya Rofes

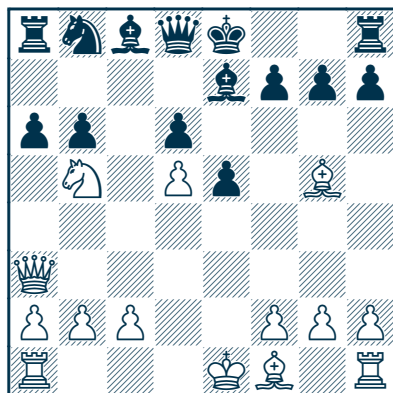
■ R Jose Abril

Spanish Team Ch, 2015

Sicilian Sveshnikov B33

[Gary Lane]

1 e4 c5 2 ♖c3 ♖c6 3 ♖ge2 ♖f6 4 d4 cxd4 5 ♖xd4 e5 6 ♖db5 d6 7 ♖d5 ♖xd5 8 exd5 ♖b8 9 ♖f3 a6 10 ♖a3 ♖e7 11 ♖g5 b6?!



An obvious reply, intending ...♖b7 hitting the d5 pawn and preparing to take on b5, but

allowing White to stop you from castling is fraught with problems.

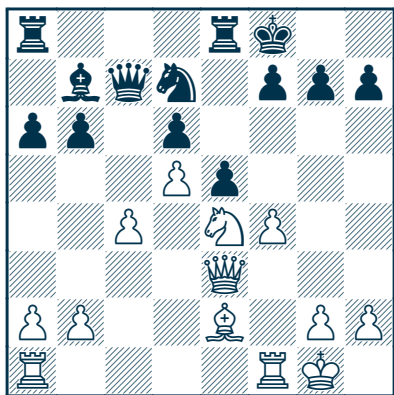
12 ♖xe7 ♔xe7 13 c4

White is doing the right thing by following the usual strategy of supporting the d5 pawn before aiming to castle kingside. In contrast Black needs to think up a fresh set of ideas to try and move his king to safety.

13... ♟b7 14 ♘c3 ♘d7 15 ♙e2 ♖e8

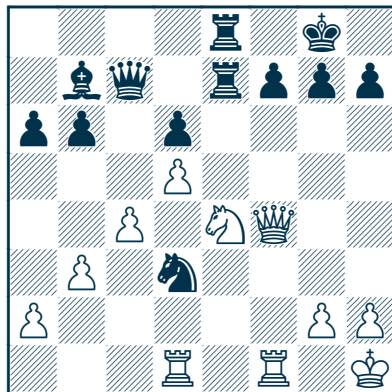
Black is trying to castle artificially, which I suspect is what the majority of players would do. Then again, the computer suggests 15... ♖c7 and after 16 0-0 leave the king in the centre of the board and defend like a champion.

16 0-0 ♖c7 17 ♘e4 ♘f6 18 ♖e3 ♘d7 19 f4 ♙f8



Black has finally achieved the aim of shifting his king away from the centre, but the pressure on the f-file by White is about to accelerate.

20 ♙h1 exf4 21 ♖xf4 ♘e5 22 ♙h5 ♖e7 23 ♖ad1 ♙g8 24 b3 ♖f8 25 ♙e2 ♖fe8 26 ♙d3 ♘xd3



27 ♘f6+

A quite brilliant idea to devastate Black's kingside barrier. The key to its success is directly linked to the potential defensive queen being locked away on the queenside.

27... gxf6

Or 27... ♙h8 28 ♖xd3 ♖f8 29 ♖h3 h6 30 ♖xh6+ gxf6 31 ♖xh6#

28 ♖xd3 f5

After 28... ♖e5 White can force matters with 29 ♖xf6 when play might continue: 29... ♙c8 30 ♖g3+ ♙f8 31 ♖g7+ ♙e7 32 ♖xf7+, winning easily.

29 ♖g5+ ♙f8 30 ♖h6+ 1-0



If someone wins with this line as White then please e-mail me the game.

Diary

Dyfed Congress, 26th–28th February, 2016. Open and U1600. Near to Pembrokeshire National Park.
tony@brithdirmawr.co.uk

Amazing Success

IM Julian Meszaros

I am currently celebrating because two of my students achieved really amazing successes over the summer. Akshaya Kalaiyalahan – who has just turned 14 – became the British Women's Champion. Taking her first IM scalp, scoring +4, =5 from 9 games against male FMs and IMs, and now having a 2233 FIDE rating and a WIM norm is really a fantastic result.

The other student of mine is Ravi Haria. In the European Youth Team Championship he really had bad luck, but in the Politiken Cup and in the Vienna Open he was fantastic, beating the top English GM Gawain Jones with Black and achieving his first IM norm. With a FIDE rating of 2445 Ravi has now become the highest-rated junior player in England. Take a look at two of their games.

□ Akshaya Kalaiyalahan

■ JG Cooper

British Championships, 2015

QGD D34

[Meszaros]

1 d4 e6 2 ♘f3 c5 3 c4 d5

The Tarrasch Defence is Cooper's opponent's favourite defence.

4 cxd5 exd5 5 g3 ♖f6 6 ♘g2 ♙e7 7 ♘c3 ♜c6 8 0-0 0-0 9 ♘g5

The other big main line here is 9 dxc5.

9...cxd4 10 ♘xd4 h6 11 ♙e3 ♗e8 12 ♖a4

The most popular move is 12 ♜c1, but we like this queen move.

12...♙d7 13 ♜fd1 ♙c5

Jumping with the knight from c6, for example 13...♙a5 14 ♖c2 ♘c4 15 ♘xd5 ♘xd5 16 ♙xd5 ♘xe3 17 fxe3 ♘g5 18 e4 would give White the advantage. Black has insufficient

compensation for the material disadvantage, a pawn less, and for the weakness of the f7 and b7 pawns.

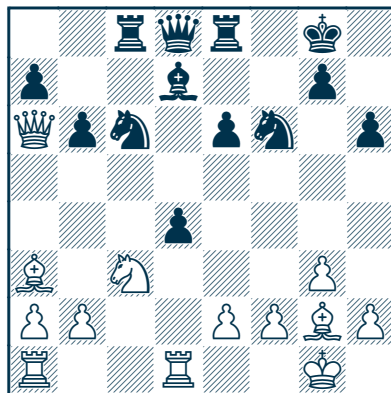
14 ♘e6 fxe6 15 ♙xc5 b6 16 ♙a3!

A strong novelty instead of 16 ♙e3 or 16 ♙d6 – suggested by the computer. Cooper is threatened by numerous tactical motifs (e.g. ♙g2 against ♖a8 and also ♘d1 to oppose ♖d8) and simply doesn't have enough time to organise his counterplay.

16...♜c8

After 16...♙a5 17 ♖b4! ♘c4 18 e4 Akshaya is fine.

17 ♖a6 d4?



A serious positional mistake, although after 17...♙e5 18 ♜ac1, White would stand better. But opening the "Catalan" bishop's diagonal never can be a good idea.

18 ♙e4 ♘xe4 19 ♙xe4 e5 20 ♜ac1 ♖f6 21 ♖d3 ♗ed8 22 ♜c2 ♘e7 23 ♜dc1 ♜xc2 24 ♜xc2

With logical play – doubling the rooks on the open c-file – Akshaya has built up a clear advantage.



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purlinglondon.com

24...♘f5 25 ♖c7 ♘d6 26 ♙xd6 ♚xd6 27 ♜xa7

White's a pawn up now, but technically it is still not an easy position.

27...♖c8 28 ♙g2

28 f3 was more accurate.

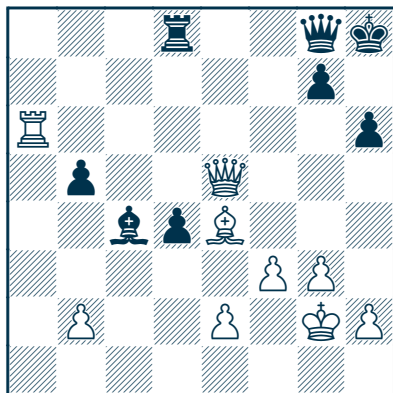
28...♙h8?!

Or 28...♚e6!? 29 ♚d1, but in this variation Black would have more practical chances.

29 ♚f3 ♙e6 30 ♚a3

The simplest way: Black – if he does not want to swap queens into a lost endgame – has to retreat passively.

30...♙d8 31 ♚e7 ♚g8 32 f3 ♜e8 33 ♚d6 b5 34 ♙g6 ♜d8 35 ♚xe5 ♙xa2 36 ♙e4 ♙c4 37 ♜a6!



Such a cruel move! Now the Welshman is helpless.

37...♚f7 38 ♜xh6+ ♙g8 39 ♙h7+ ♙f8 40 ♙g6 1-0

Black resigned. For example: 40...gxh6 41 ♙xf7 ♙xf7 42 ♚f4+ ♙g6 (42...♙g7 43 ♚c7+-) 43 ♚e4+ ♙f7 (43...♙g7 44 ♚e7+-) 44 ♚h7+ ♙e8 45 ♚xh6 ♙xe2 46 ♚e6+-.

This was Akshaya's first IM scalp.



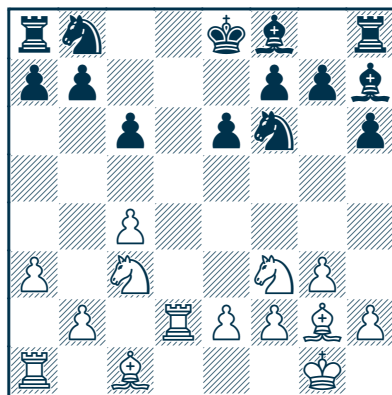
□ R Haria

■ J Carlstedt

Politiken Cup, 2015
Réti A07

[Meszaros]

1 ♘f3 ♘f6 2 g3 d5 3 ♙g2 ♙f5 4 c4 c6 5 0-0 h6 6 d3 dxc4 7 dxc4 ♚xd1 8 ♜xd1 e6 9 ♘c3 ♙c2!? 10 ♜d2 ♙h7 11 a3



A new move in this position. 11 b3 ♘bd7 12 ♙b2 ♙b4 13 ♜ad1 0-0-0 happened in TL Petrosyan–A Zaitsev, Moscow, 2015. Ravi's move is more ambitious, though it does weaken the b3 square.

11...♘bd7?!

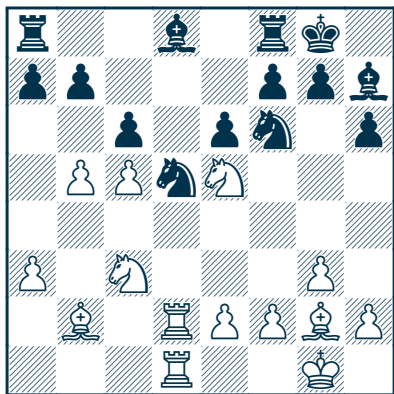
11...a5! 12 b3 ♘bd7 13 ♙b2 ♘c5 (13...♙e7) 14 ♘d4 e5 15 ♘xc6 ♘xb3 16 ♜ad1! ♘xd2 17 ♜xd2 with an unclear position.

12 b4 ♙e7 13 ♙b2 0-0 14 ♜ad1 ♘b6 15 ♘e5 ♙d8

At first sight it looks to be a good plan to move the bishop to c7, to control the e5 square.

16 c5 ♘bd5 17 b5!

BCM 2014 bound volume now
available: see p. 551



A very strong move - its biggest advantage is that it seems to be a blunder.

17...♙a5 18 bxc6! ♘xc3?

The losing move. After 18...bxc6 19 ♖c1 ♖ac8 20 ♖dd1 White would have a big advantage.

19 ♙xc3 ♙xc3 20 cxb7 ♖ab8 21 ♘d7! ♘xd7

21...♙xd2 22 ♘xb8 ♖xb8 23 ♙xd2 ♘e8 24 c6

♙f5 25 ♖d7 e5 (25 ♙f8 26 e4+-) 26 ♖e7 ♙f8 27 c7 ♖xb7 28 ♖xe8+ ♙xe8 29 ♙xb7+-.

22 ♖xd7

Black has an extra piece, but White's queenside passed pawns are much more dangerous.

22...♙c2 23 ♖c1 ♙a4 24 c6 ♙e5 25 ♖c4!

Forcing the next capture.

25...♙xc6

Or 25...♙b3 26 ♖c5 ♙d5 27 ♙xd5 exd5 28 ♖cx5 ♖fe8 29 c7 ♖xb7 30 ♖xe5+-.

26 ♖xc6

Opposite-coloured bishops, but the position is hopeless for Black.

26...♖be8 27 f4 ♙b8 28 e4 g5 29 e5! gx f4 30 gx f4 f6 31 f5!

A nice finish to a well-played game.

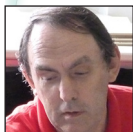
31...♙xe5 32 fxe6 ♖b8 33 ♙f3 1-0

Black resigned. He is helpless against the ♙h5, e7-e8♖ manoeuvre.

Club Knight

Tyson Mordue

Do As You Will Be Done by!



Here are two games by one of my club-mates that have something quite remarkable in common.

The first game features a queen sacrifice: a pseudo-sacrifice, but pleasing nevertheless. This is the first game I've featured where a South Bristol player is on the losing end.

□ L Martin

■ P Krzyzanowski

Bristol League, 2015
Bogo-Indian E11

[Mordue]

1 d4

An immediate surprise. I've known Lewis Martin for several years and he has always played 1 e4. Perhaps he didn't fancy facing a Sicilian Dragon or should that be a *Polish* Dragon? Our club has become so international.

1...♘f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♘f3 ♙b4+

Black intends simplifying the position by exchanging this bishop for either a knight or a bishop and then placing his pawns on dark squares with ... d7-d6 and ... e6-e5. White can of course transpose to a Nimzo-Indian Defence with 4 ♘c3.

4 ♙d2 ♖e7

A slightly odd-looking move, but if White exchanges bishops with 5 ♗xb4 the recapture 5... ♜xb4+ attacks two white pawns. This is very rare. White lost the only two games I could find on my database.

5 ♗c3

Now an exchange on c3 won't result in doubled pawns.

5...0-0 6 e3 ♗xc3 7 ♗xc3 ♞e4 8 ♞c2 ♞xc3 9 ♞xc3 d6

Black is a bit cramped, but he has already swapped off two pairs of minor pieces, so that should stand him in good stead. Now he prepares to play ... e6–e5.

10 ♗d3

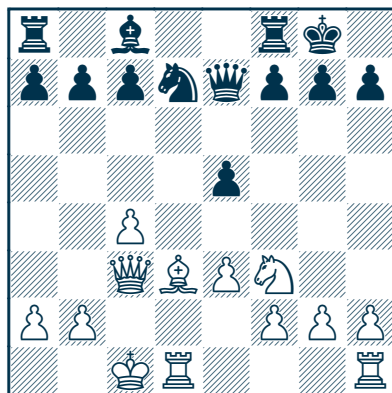
Two games, J Brach–V Olexa, Czech Championship, 1959 and I Kincs–A Lavrov, Eger, 1993, both continued 10 ♗e2 ♞d7 11 0–0. Lewis goes a different way with both bishop and king. The main difference with the bishop is that if Black achieves the advance ... e6–e5 then he threatens the fork ... e5–e4. How does Black force ... e6–e5? In the game Patryk chose to support this with 10... ♞d7 , but this gave Lewis's bishop the f5 square. If Patryk had selected 10 ♗c6 then after 11 0–0–0 e5 12 d5 is better for White. Also after 10... ♗c6 there is the immediate 11 d5 to consider. Perhaps for this reason he chose the former move.

10... ♞d7 11 0–0–0 e5 12 dxe5

With his rook on the d-file, the natural consequence of queenside castling, Lewis elects to open the d-file. Closing the centre with 12 d5 loses a piece after 12...e4, but 12 ♞c2 coordinating the queen and bishop on the light squares – 12...f5 is prevented – is playable. The text is more Lewis's style.

12...dxe5

An obvious alternative is 12... ♞xe5 . Black threatens the ticklish 13... ♞g4 , hitting f2, so White probably has to swap knights on e5 as well. Patryk keeps the pieces on the board, but it looks as though he either underestimated or missed White's next move.



13 ♗f5! e4

Lewis threatens the straightforward 14 ♗xd7 ♗xd7 15 ♞xe5 winning a pawn. How to defend? The simple 13...f6 is met by the equally simple 14 ♞d3 forking h7 and d7. 13... ♞e8 doesn't stop the threat because the Black queen is overloaded defending e5 and d7, so 14 ♗xd7 ♗xd7 15 ♞xe5 ♞xe5 16 ♞xe5 ♞xe5 17 ♞xd7 , emerging a good pawn up. Hence the text.

14 ♞d4 $\text{♞c5?!$

The players spent a lot of time on this position in the post mortem. They settled on 14... ♞e8 for Black, but Lewis and I opined that after 15 ♗xd7 ♗xd7 16 c5! – preventing 16...c5 by Black – White stood better. His knight seems to dominate Black's bishop. The text is a natural move trying to exploit the hole on d3, but it has a tactical flaw.

15 ♗xc8 ♞axc8?

This natural recapture is a serious error. Patryk should have played 15... ♞fxc8 so as to give his queen the retreat to the f8 square after 16 ♞f5 . He is then solidly, but passively, placed. The text loses material in very simple fashion.

16 ♞f5 ♞g5 17 ♞e5!

Suddenly Black has to defend against both 18 ♞xc5 and 18 ♞e7+ , winning an exchange or a queen.

17... ♞f8

At first sight it looks as if Black interposes 17... ♖d3+ and following 18 ♖xd3 ♖fe8 he gets away with it. However, White has 19 ♗xg7+ ♗xg7 20 ♖xg7 – hitting the rook that just moved to e8! Note that it doesn't make any difference if Black had played 17... ♖ce8 instead: 20...cxd3 21 ♖xe8 and when the d3 pawn drops to a combined attack by rook and king White will be two pawns up. In this variation Black can play 20...♗xg7 limiting his losses to one pawn, but he is still losing after 21 ♖d7. At the time I thought Black could play 17... ♖e6, but the players pointed out that after 18 h4 Black has to drop his guard of the e7 square and allow White the exchange-winning fork. With the text Black allows White to take the knight, but Patryk hopes to chase Lewis's queen from the defence of his own steed. This fails to a very neat trick.

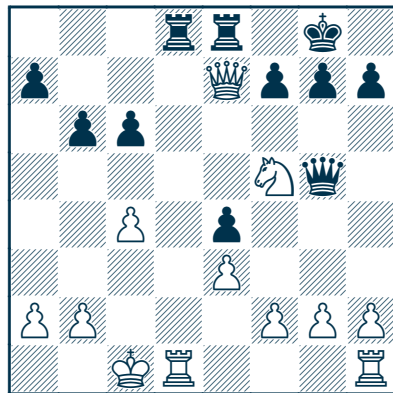
18 ♗xc5 b6

It looks like 18...g6 is simpler, but after 19 ♖d5! gxf5 20 ♖xf5 White is a pawn up and stands much better. Here Black can't play 20...♗xg2?? due to 21 ♖g5+. Once again this proves my theory that if you can safely occupy the square that your opponent's piece has just vacated then it is usually very strong. However, the text unwittingly confirms the loss of a piece, but it takes imagination by Lewis to prove it.

19 ♗d5 c6

If 19...♖cd8 20 ♗b5 c6 21 h4 is one line that keeps the piece while 20 ♖xd8 ♖xd8 (if 20...cxb5?? 21 ♖xe8#) 21 ♗e5 is another. Patryk is prepared to concede a pawn or two with 20 ♗d7 ♖cd8 21 ♗xc7 ♖xd1+ 22 ♖xd1 ♗xe5 to regain the piece, but he's in for a surprise.

20 ♗d7 ♖cd8 21 ♗e7!!



This is very unusual. I found the text in only two games, and one of those was a Melody Amber tournament game, which is a blindfold event. Black wants to break the symmetry by putting his knight on e7 rather than f6, but this is not a good way to do it. The knight is on a worse square and there are now dark square weaknesses on the kingside. This all comes back to haunt Black. With the knight headed for a worse square than usual Patryk switches styles from his hypermodern opening and occupies the centre.

4 e4 ♖e7 5 d4 d6 6 ♙e3 0-0?

This is a serious, but quite common, error. With the knight on e7 and not on f6 where it controls h5 Black must delay castling until White has castled kingside himself. Patryk reacts immediately and correctly.

7 h4!

Of course. With the knight not on f6 White simply intends h4–h5xg6 to open the h-file. This move develops the rook without even moving it.

7...c5?

Black should seriously consider 7...h5, trying to keep the kingside closed. In my experience this is the best response to the push of the h-pawn in analogous positions. However, the text has its own independent problems. Black is now in effect playing a Sicilian Dragon where he has played ...e7–e6. This automatically means that the d6 pawn becomes exposed on the open d-file because it doesn't have its natural defender. What's more, the prospect of Black advancing ...d6–d5 isn't good with the white bishop sitting on g2 looking at the d5 square. My computer (CM) suggests both 7...e5 and 7...f5, which are more solid ways of getting to grips with the position.

8 h5 cxd4

Or 8...♗b6 9 c3 ♖b6, and here White could consider 10 ♖b3 and if Black swaps queens he'll concede the open a-file to White, who will then have the advantage on both wings and the centre. Oddly, CM believes that the advantage goes to the side that exchanges queens because of the doubled pawns. This is not

correct. The open a-file outweighs the doubled pawns; see D Janowski–JR Capablanca, New York, 1916 and MN Tal–MM Botvinnik, 9th match game, 1961, both won by Black. Now Patryk takes the opportunity to capture on d4 with his bishop because there is no knight on c6. Normally White takes back with his knight here in the Sicilian, but this is no ordinary Sicilian position.

9 ♗xd4 ♗bc6?

Allowing the exchange of his dark-squared bishop is a mistake. I feel Black must play 9...e5 here to avoid this exchange, regardless of the reduction of scope of his king's bishop – the queen's bishop is at least opened up – and the weakening of the d5 square. CM agrees with me here, but of the two of us I have more experience in this type of position and I'm writing the notes.

10 ♗xg7 ♗xg7 11 ♖d2

Now Black has problems preventing an incursion on h6. The obvious way is to play 11...♗g8, but after 12 ♗c3 and 13 0–0–0 Black has the same problem with his d6 pawn.

11...f6

Preparing to flee with the king, which costs time and cedes ground. If the opponent can open up the centre the king may be running into trouble elsewhere; e.g. N Wragg–AT Mordue, Chesterfield, 2009: 1 e4 c5 2 ♗c3 ♗c6 3 g3 g6 4 ♗g2 ♗g7 5 d3 d6 6 ♙e3 e5 7 ♖d2 ♙e6 8 ♗ge2 ♖d7 9 0–0? h5! (*The signature move*) 10 f4 h4 11 ♗f2!? ♗f6 12 ♗e1 ♗g4? (*Much better is the immediate 12...hxg3 13 hxg3 ♗h2 due to 14 ♗g1 being answered by 14...♗g4! 15 ♗f3?? ♗xg2*) 13 ♗g1 hxg3 14 hxg3 0–0–0 15 a3 ♗d4 16 ♗d1? d5! 17 ♗ec3 dxe4 18 ♗xe4 ♖c7! 19 ♗g5 ♗d5 (*That key exchange again*) 20 ♗xd5 ♗xd5 21 ♗c3 ♗d7 22 ♖g2 c4! (*A move prepared earlier by 18...♖c7 that opens more central files*) 23 ♗d1 ♗e8 24 ♗d2 exf4+ 25 ♗d1 ♗e3+ 26 ♗xe3 fxe3 27 ♗e2 cxd3? (*First 27...♗xe2 and then 28...cxd3 is crushing*) 28 cxd3 ♗xe2 29 ♗xe2! ♗xc3 30 ♗c1 ♗b8 31 ♗xc3 ♖b6 0–1 (*time*).

12 hxg6 hxg6 13 ♖h6+ ♗f7 14 ♗c3 a6

Clearly to prevent a later ♗c3–b5 and indeed

a standard move in many Sicilians. 14...♖b6 is sharper, counterattacking f2, but after 15 0-0-0 ♗xf2 White has 16 ♘b5 threatening 17 ♘xd6+ ♕g8 18 ♗h7 mate and the retreat 16...♙e8 walks into a fork on c7. CM finds the amusing line 14...♖b6 15 0-0-0 ♙d7 16 ♗xd6 ♗xf2 17 ♗xd7 ♗xg2 18 ♗xg6+!? ♙xg6 19 ♘h4+. After further thought it suggested 14 ♖b6 15 0-0-0 ♙d7 16 ♗h7+ ♙e8 17 ♗g7, with either the same idea as Patryk played in the game, that is ♗h1-h8, or ♘c3-b5xd6+. Sensibly, Peters tries to stay as solid as he can rather than fiddle around with enemy pawns while his king burns.

15 0-0-0 ♖c7 16 ♗h7+

There is nothing wrong with 16 ♗d2, which almost wins the d6 pawn. If 16...♙d8 17 ♗h7+ ♙e8 18 ♗f4 is very strong and CM claims 18 e5 is almost winning. Patryk keeps coming forward. He'd rather have a king than a pawn.

16...♙e8 17 ♗g7 b5

The obvious 17...♙d7 loses to 18 ♗h8 ♗xh8 19 ♗xh8+ ♙f7 20 ♗xa8; hence the attempt to fianchetto the bishop. What else does Black have? CM suggests 17...♖b6 again, but after 18 ♗h8 ♗xh8 19 ♗xh8+ ♙f7 20 ♗h1 is bad, while the alternative 19...♙d7 allows 20 ♗f6 as 20...♗xf2 loses the queen to 21 ♘e5+.

18 ♗h8 ♗xh8 19 ♗xh8+ ♙d7

Once again 19...♙f7 20 ♗h1 is fatal, so Black must drop his f6 pawn. This means that Patryk can now safely advance his e4 pawn so his bishop can take advantage of the recently opened long diagonal.

20 ♗xf6 ♖a5

This isolates the queen from the defence, but Black is badly off as White threatens 21 ♙h3 winning the e6 pawn. CM suggests 20...♖a7, but, of course, f2 is not loose because of ♘e5+. Patryk now goes after the e6 pawn with his knight while keeping his bishop on the long diagonal. This approach pays off.

21 ♘g5 ♙c7 22 e5!

Now every White piece is involved in the attack.

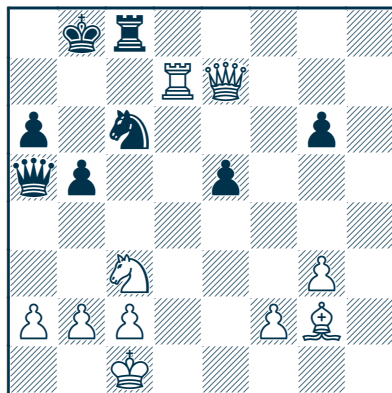
22...dxe5 23 ♘xe6+ ♙xe6

CM points out that the immediate 23...♙b8 can be met by 24 ♘d8!

24 ♗xe6 ♗c8

Give credit to Peters for allowing a classy and superbly ironic finish.

25 ♙d7+ ♙b8 26 ♗xe7!!



Now you know why this article is so-named. After 26...♘xe7 27 ♗b7+ ♙a8 simplest is 28 ♗xb5+ and 29 ♗xa5. An attempt at a windmill after 26...♘xe7 27 ♗b7+ ♙a8 with 28 ♗xe7+ – forcing 28...♗c6 – otherwise Black goes two pieces down, is interesting. Now 29 ♗xc6+ ♙b8 and here 30 ♘d5 and 31 ♗e8 would win immediately if it wasn't for the e5 pawn blocking the rook's defence of 30...♗e1#! CM analyses 30 ♗xe5 ♖c7 31 ♗e8+ ♙a7 32 ♗a8+ ♙b6 33 ♘d5+ winning and 30 ♗xe5 ♙c7 31 ♗e6 followed by 32 ♘d5+, and the black king is still caught in a mating net. The first method is the more convincing.

1-0

Diary

Castle Chess, Dudley, 20th–22nd

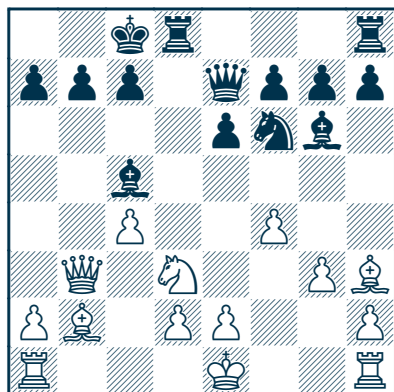
November, 2015.

www.castlechess.co.uk

Double Exchange Sacrifices: Part 3

A Chistiakov

BCM © 03/66



A position for analysis from **V Orlov–A Chistiakov**, Moscow, 1964.

Next month, we'll be back with some answers. *Get weaving!*



Diary

British Rapidplay Championship,

31st October–1st November, 2015.

www.british-rapidplay.org.uk/2015site

Black to play. What happened now?

Congress Diary

Mark A. Jordan

mrkjordan61@gmail.com



I had never visited Hampstead before entering the Hampstead International, but with its close connection through its former and present illustrious residents to liberal and socialist philosophy, the rather slightly labelled liberal arts, and progressive scientific ideas, I have often been there in my imagination. Former residents include the poets Keats, Shelley and Coleridge, novelists George Orwell, Doris Lessing, Alec Waugh and Evelyn Waugh, the once well-known, but now partially forgotten, evolutionary biologist, Julian Huxley, and Labour icon Aneurin Bevan. Stepping out of Hampstead tube station I experienced a feeling of familiarity, which I first put down to my connection by proxy, but, on closer inspection, I realised something else was going on. Chic boutiques, shoulder-to-shoulder expensive looking eateries and outdoor seating – reserved for diners of course as there's no tarrying without a credit card – and an ambience of bland self-satisfaction. Where *have* I experienced this before? Well, anywhere in central London, the process of gentrification, or what is called, hopefully, ur-

ban renewal, spreads to the presumed benefit of commerce, but not often in the interest of the less well-heeled local resident. There is a sameness to these developments, from which Hampstead is not immune, with restaurant chains, mostly owned by corporations, masquerading as local concerns and pushing prices beyond that of local enterprise. The relevance of all this to chess is that finding suitable venues for tournaments which might be able to host events anything like they used to be in the 1970s is becoming increasingly difficult. In light of all this, the Henderson Court Resource Centre, situated a few minutes from the tube, is a pretty good if somewhat cramped venue for a tournament.

The Centre is located within a small complex of budget retirement flats and is usually used to meet some of the social needs of the residents and, one assumes, elderly visitors from elsewhere. Converted into a tournament venue, it provides a moderate sized hall for the two main tournaments and a small office for the organiser and the arbiter. The U135 tournament was mostly accommodated in small side rooms, allowing some of the more energetic younger competitors to be as vibrant as they wished without distracting the more serious competitor, but there was some overflow into the main playing hall. I, my opponent and our next nearest compatriots were entertained, on one occasion, by a 60-odd move battle between under-tens which featured a very serious piece imbalance and threats of stalemate constantly in the air; all played in about 30 minutes. I was more amused than inconvenienced, but I think some of the other players were less happy with this and other similar events. I know the organisers are aware of the problem and have promised to sort out the issue for future events.

The Hampstead International was, until a couple of months ago, simply an U2200 event, but the organisers are now experimenting, after consultation, with including an U1900 section, and this seems to be working well with both sections fully subscribed. For my part, it's nice to be able to enter a section where I had at least some chance of winning a main prize. The U2200 was very competitive, with no one on 100% by Round 3 and with a multiple tie for 1st on $2\frac{1}{2}/3$, including Yasmin Giles (1964), a promising junior who I had the pleasure of observing improving rapidly at my former club, Lewisham. She lost in Round 4 to Krzysztof Jamroz (POL 2086), who turned out to be the only winner amongst the leading group and therefore went into the last round as sole leader. Playing Black in Round 5 against Akito Oyama (2060), he fought hard for a win, but had to be content with a draw, which allowed Philip R Bonafont (2003) and TGM Peiris (SRI 2103) to catch up. So, a three-way tie for 1st with each player taking home £75. Kayode Disu (1922), who was on $1/3$ at the end of the first day, recovered well to bag the u1950 Rating Prize and £40 for his final score of $3/5$.

The U1900, in which I was a competing, was also very hard fought. I found myself playing against the top seed, E Suseenthiram (IND 1890) in Round 1 and on the White side of a Najdorf. Having obtained what I assessed to be a very slight edge, I promptly blundered my f-pawn in ludicrous circumstances, after which my position collapsed. Draws in Rounds 2 and 3, one of which was rather lucky, left me on $1/3$ looking at yet another under-par performance. I redeemed myself on Sunday and won my final two games – the last a demoli-

tion of my opponent's Pirc with an Austrian Attack, complete with an exchange sacrifice on h8.

Meanwhile, my opponent in Round 1, the tournament favourite, had won his next game and was up against Shane McCabe (IRL 1858) in Round 3. Things did not go to plan and he lost quite quickly with Black. This left Shane the sole leader on 3/3 going into the second day, with a multiple tie for second on 2½/3. Unfortunately for him, he was not able to keep up the momentum on day two and lost in the morning to Chris Davison (1870). A win in the afternoon would have been enough for joint second, but he lost again, this time to Syd Jacob (1875) and was out of the prizes. Chris Davison defeated Marinel Miu (ROU 1808) in the final round for a score of 4½/5 and first place, which earned him £150. Suseenthiram, recovering for his loss to Shane McCabe in Round 3, came in second on 4/5 and took home £50 and the £40. U1700 rating prize went to 14-year-old Pranay Chauhan (1550), who, with a tournament performance of 1818, looks set to zoom up the rating list.

The U135 was won on 5/5 by Donald Stanton (120), who received £150.00, with Jennifer Goldsmith (108) putting in a great performance to finish sole second (£75). The U115 Grading Prize (£40) was won on a tie-break by veteran John MacDonald (114).

Then to the pub – specifically 'The Flask' which I can happily recommend – with my mate Syd from Lewisham CC, and later to be joined by fellow Major competitor Tim Crouch, where we had a pleasant natter and a pint too many! All-in-all a very pleasant weekend.



News from the British Isles

Birmingham Congress – **4NCL Weekender**,
17th–19th July: *Open* 1st T Fodor, jnr. (HUN)

'... just before popping back to Hungary for family celebrations...' 4½/5; 2nd PK Wells 4.



Matthew Wadsworth and Koby Kalavannan at the UKCC Terafinal (see also p. 522)



Berks and Bucks prizewinner Simon Sellick

The Steve Boniface Memorial was held at **Bristol**, 21st–23rd August.

Open: 1st C Bicknell – a local success – 5/5; 2nd= CR Beaumont and SA Jones 4 ... 31 played.

Major: 1st= B O’Gorman, AM Hibbitt, NN Senior and P Musgrove all 4/5 ... 30 played.

Minor: 1st L Bryant 4½/5; 2nd= JB Harris and MJ Maber both 3½ ... 17 players.

London Weekender. **Golders Green**, 29th–31st August, attracted 84 to the well-known Church Hall. The top section was won by RC Mitra 5/6; 2nd= DJ Ledger, Y Giles and A Hayward 4½ ... 31 played.

U1900 1st J Rubeck 5½/6; 2nd= DJ Liu and Elizabeth Ivanov (aged 14) both 4½.

U135 1st PP Sartain 5/6; 2nd= JD Yoon and Anum Sheikh (aged 9) 4½.

Loughborough, 15th–16th August. *De-lancey UK Schools Chess Challenge* Terafinal.

1 Matthew Wadsworth *Maidenhead/Reading* 16; 2nd= Samuel Herring *Oundle* and Joseph McPhillips *Turton & Edgworth*

both 15; 4th Koby Kalavannan *Hampton* 14; 5th Alex Golding *Downsend*, Holden Davis *Queen Elizabeth Grammar* and Adam A Taylor *Wilson’s* all 13 ... 52 players.

Maidenhead, 29th–31st August.

Championship 1st= W Claridge-Hansen and MJ Wadsworth 5/6; 3rd MJ Basman ~ see this month’s cover ~ 4½ ... 18 players. Wadsworth takes the Berkshire Closed title.

Challengers 1st G Amato (ITA) 5/6; 2nd= M Dunkley, NJ Dunlop and A Price all 4 ... 15 competed.



Berks and Bucks prizewinner Giampiero Amato

Reserves “A” 1st= GDA Green and MR Stone both 4½/6 ... 19 chess players.

Reserves “B” 1st SC Sellick 5/6; 2nd GW Naldrett 4½ ... 16 entrants.

Reserves “C” 1st V Stoyanov (aged 12) 5½/6; 2nd AR Fraser 5 ... 16 players.

This was the 52nd Berks and Bucks Annual Congress, first held in Marlow in 1964. That distant gathering drew 60 players.

London Rapidplay, 22nd August in **Watford**: Top Open section: 1st J Radovanovic 5½/6; 2nd T Malhotra ... 46 played.

York – Jorvik Congress, 1st–3rd September – “A” Group: 1st CN Ross 5/6 ... 22 players.

News from Abroad

FIDE World Cup in Baku, **Azerbaijan** – on the Caspian Sea – 11th September–5th October.

128-player knockout with two Candidates places at stake. The top seeds are: Topalov, Nakamura, So, Giri, Caruana. And England’s **Mickey Adams** weighs in at No.15. At writing, all of these big guns have bludgeoned their way into the third round. All very tense and fast-moving.

Austria. Vienna, 9th–21st August. 816 players were drawn to this major gathering. Several British players did exceptionally well.

The “A” Group resulted in a five-way tie: 1st= A Rombaldoni and F Rambaldi (both ITA), KC Arkell – ‘my best result ever!’ declared the Devonian – (ENG), T Banusz and G Antal (both HUN) all 7½/9. *Also* J Hawkins – an all-too rare trip abroad for the British Champion – 7; R Haria 6½; JP Jackson and S Jessel (IRL) both 6; Akshaya Kalaiyalahan (ENG) 5.

Joshua Higgs (ENG) emerged undefeated in the “B” Group, finishing equal second. Welsh Lady Champion, Lynda Roberts, played in the same section, and scored 5½/9. The Town Hall staged and hosted.

China. A recent game from the long running League of Leagues:

□ W Zhou

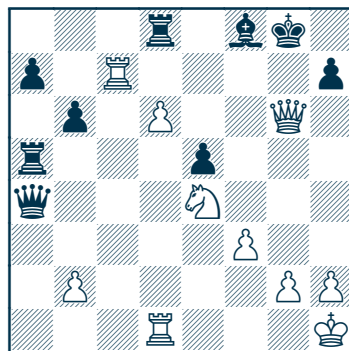
■ K Mu

Grünfeld D90

Black was winning until he played the

unfortunate and fatal 40 ♖a3 that allowed White to set up an unstoppable *Arabian Mate* with 41 ♖f6. According to Vukovic, the Arabian Mate was first recorded in manuscripts of the ninth century. Renaud/Kahn add that pieces other than the knight and rook moved differently that long ago; thus this name is preserved out of continuity, if nothing else. They cite: **R Fine–AW Duke**, Western CA, 1933, as an example. Well, we’ll treat you to that too:

1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 g6 3 f3 d5 4 cxd5 ♜xd5 5 e4 ♜b6 6 ♙e3 ♙g7 7 ♜c3 0–0 8 ♜d2 e5 9 d5 c6 10 a4 cxd5 11 exd5 ♜h4+ 12 ♙f2 ♜b4 13 a5 ♜c4 14 ♙xc4 ♜xc4 15 ♜ge2 ♜a6 16 0–0 ♜c5 17 ♙xc5 ♜xc5+ 18 ♜h1 ♜d8 19 ♜g5 f6 20 ♜h4 g5 21 ♜a4 ♙f5 22 ♜fd1 ♜ac8 23 ♜g3 ♙g6 24 ♜ge4 ♜c4 25 ♜a3 ♙f8 26 d6 ♙g7 27 ♜d5 ♙f7 28 ♜d2 ♜c6 29 ♜ad1 ♜a6 30 ♜a1 b6 (‘This is not good...relatively best is 30...h6’ – Fine) 31 ♜c1 ♜xa5 32 ♜xf6 ♜xf6 33 ♜e4+ ♜g7 34 ♜c2! (‘The roads are now open for the White pieces’ – Fine) 34... ♜a4 35 ♜xg5+ ♙g6 36 ♜c7+ ♜g8 37 ♜xg6+ 1–0



(37...h×g6 38 ♜f6+ ♜h8 39 ♜h7#)
Meanwhile, back in China:

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♘c3 d5 4 ♘f3 ♙g7 5 h4 dxc4 6 e4 c5 7 d5 b5 8 e5 ♘g4 9 ♙f4 0-0 10 ♘xb5 ♖a5+ 11 ♘c3 ♘d7 12 ♖e2 ♘b6 13 ♖d2 ♘d7 14 h5 ♘dxe5 15 ♘xe5 ♘xe5 16 hxg6 fxg6 17 ♙h6 ♙xh6 18 ♖xh6 ♖f7 19 ♙e2 ♖b4 20 ♖e3 ♘d3+ 21 ♙xd3 ♖xb2 22 ♙xg6 ♖xa1+ 23 ♙b1 ♙f5 24 0-0 ♖b2 25 ♙xf5 ♖xf5 26 ♖b1 ♖c2 27 ♖b7 ♖af8 28 f3 ♖d3 29 ♖xe7 ♘h8 30 ♘f2 a5 31 ♖c7 ♖d4 32 ♘e4 ♖b2+ 33 ♖e2 ♖d4+ 34 ♖e3 ♖xd5 35 ♖xd4+ ♖xd4 36 ♘e2 ♖d5 37 ♘xc5 ♖b8 38 ♘e3 ♖e8+ 39 ♘e4 ♖d3+ 40 ♘f4 ♖a3? 41 ♘f6

An explosive clash containing more forks and pins than an ironmonger's stockroom!

1-0

After fifteen rounds the Chinese League leaders are: 1st Beijing N.A.T. 13/15; 2nd Chongqing 11½ ... 12 teams. *Seven rounds remain!*

France. St. Quentin, 9th-20th August. The French Championship, the 90th in the series, we read, was won jointly by Christian

Bauer and Tigran Gharamian. They both scored 7½/11. Bauer, who won their individual encounter, which was, appropriately enough, a French, was eventually declared winner on a 1½-½ tie-break. Twelve played. Lyon, **European Blind.** IBCA, 25th July-2nd August. England's Chris Ross finished 3rd= on 6½/9. (Also see 'Club Knight' *BCM* 02/15, p. 81.)

Hungary. Kecskemet, 15th-26th August. IM norm at 'First Saturday' for Joseph McPhillips.

Poland. Rubinstein Memorial, Polanica-Zdroj, 21st-30th August. David Eggleston visited South-Western Poland and, despite being the lowest rated in a ten-player American, scored 50% and gained some rating points.

Russia. Who is known as 'The Professor' and comes from the Saratov Region, near the Kazakhstan borders? He was European Individual Champion. Another clue: this GM is aged 28 and won the Russian Champion-

68th Russian Championship, 9-20 viii 2015

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
1	E Tomashevsky 2747	*	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	½	1	½	1	7½
2	S Karyakin 2753	½	*	½	½	½	1	1	½	1	½	½	½	7
3	N Vitiugov 2719	½	½	*	½	½	½	1	½	½	1	½	½	6½
4	D Jakovenko 2759	½	½	½	*	1	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	5½
5	D Dubov	½	½	½	0	*	½	1	½	½	½	½	½	5½
6	V Artemiev 2671	½	0	½	1	½	*	0	0	½	½	1	1	5½
7	D Khismatullin 2642	0	0	0	½	0	1	*	½	1	½	1	1	5½
8	I Lysyj 2673	0	½	½	½	½	1	½	*	0	½	½	½	5
9	PV Svidler 2739	½	0	½	½	½	½	0	1	*	½	½	½	5
10	I Bukavshin 2655	0	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	*	½	1	5
11	A Motylev 2658	½	½	½	½	½	0	0	½	½	½	*	0	4
12	I Khairullin	0	½	½	½	½	0	0	½	½	0	1	*	4

ship in Tbilisi, 2015, ahead of a packed field. The answer is **Evgeny Tomashevsky**.

A quiet **Russian Championship** it has to be said. Tomashevsky was seeded 3 and went through undefeated. The defending champ, Igor Lysyj, did not shine and had to wait until the last round to open his winning account. The obscure venue, nearer to China and Mongolia than Moscow, in a once-forbidden city, appears to have had little to recommend it.

The Women's Championship was a victory for sixteen-year-old **Aleksandra Goryachkina**, with 8/11.

The World Junior Championship was played at Khanty-Mansiysk, finishing on 15th September. England's **Ezra Kirk** scored 6/13, finishing 37th=, in a field of 62. The leaders were: 1st= MA Antipov (RUS) and J-K Duda (POL) both 10/13; 3rd M Bluebaum (GER) 9; 4th Q Loiseau (FRA) 8½.

In the girls event, **Amy Hoare** scored 4.5/13, finishing 44th of 48 players. WFM Natalia Buksa (UKR) won with 10/13.

Spain. Linares, 23rd–31st August. The Spanish Championship was a nine-round

Swiss affair with 101 entrants, including three previous holders of the title. Illescas, Perez Candelario and Forcen were amongst the absentees in this a hotly contested annual. 1st= F Vallejo Pons, D Anton Guijano and M Huega Leache all 7.

Vallejo Pons, defending champion, took the title on tie-break. This was the grandmaster's third win of the championship.

UAE, Abu Dhabi Masters. 23rd–31st August: 1st= N Grandelius (SWE), B Jobava (GEO), M Kravtsov and A Areshchenko (both UKR) and R Rapport (HUN) all 7/9. **Gawain Jones** suffered a round 4 loss against Kravtsov. The English GM played the Classical Dragon, but, despite queenside pressure, never had quite enough for the pawn and the rooks, like the inevitable rain, got in. Jones went down in 45 and eventually finished 6th=. (See September's 'Game of the Month' on YouTube with Andrew Martin).

USA. Washington, 8th–13th August. DJ Eggleston (*again, see above*) emerged undefeated in a nine-round Swiss, finishing 11th=. (Well, he does have an American publisher – Ed.) Gata Kamsky (USA), who

3rd Sinquefeld Cup, 23 viii–1 ix 2015

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
1	Levon Aronian 2765	ARM	*	½	½	½	1	½	½	½	1	1	6
2	Anish Giri 2793	NED	½	*	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	½	5
3	Magnus Carlsen 2853	NOR	½	½	*	1	½	0	0	½	1	1	5
4	Maxime Vachier-Lagrave 2731	FRA	½	½	0	*	½	1	½	½	½	1	5
5	Hikaru Nakamura 2814	USA	0	½	½	½	*	0	1	1	½	1	5
6	Veselin Topalov 2816	BUL	½	½	1	0	1	*	½	½	0	½	4½
7	Alexander Grischuk 2771	RUS	½	0	1	½	0	½	*	1	1	0	4½
8	Viswanathan Anand 2816	IND	½	½	½	½	0	½	0	*	½	½	3½
9	Fabiano Caruana 2808	USA	0	½	0	½	½	1	0	½	*	½	3½
10	Wesley So 2779	USA	0	½	0	0	0	½	1	½	½	*	3

led from the beginning, ran out winner with 7½. 56 played including eight GMs.

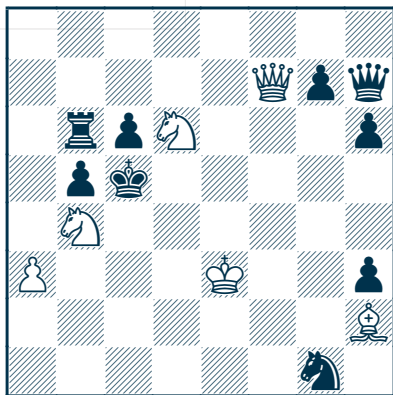
Sinquefield Cup, St Louis, Missouri. Such is the excitement that it generates that it doesn't seem a year since the last event, sponsored by local patron – not just of chess – Rex Sinquefield, hit the headlines and stayed there. The Armenian Grandmaster, Levon Grigor Aronian, 32, had, perhaps, his best result for 21 months. Maybe his best result ever.

LGA mixed his defences, but happily opened with 1 c4 in all of his games as White. The former World Champion, Vishy Anand, and last year's overwhelming winner, Fabiano Caruana, disappointed, finishing near the bottom. And what was Nakamura doing, playing a kind of Kopec System (1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 d6 3 ♙b5+ ♜d7 4 0-0 a6 5 ♙d3 ♜gf6 6 c3 b5 7 ♙c2) in the last round? He won, and you can't argue with that! This was part of the **Grand Chess Tour**. The last leg takes place at the London Chess Classic at Olympia in December.

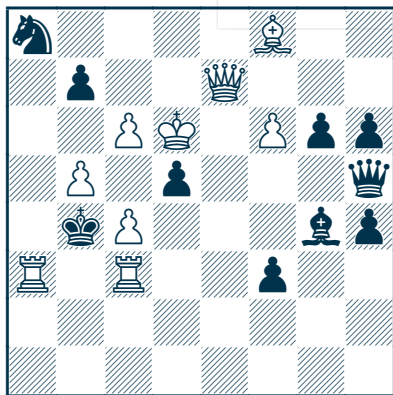
Problem World

Christopher Jones

cjajones1@yahoo.co.uk



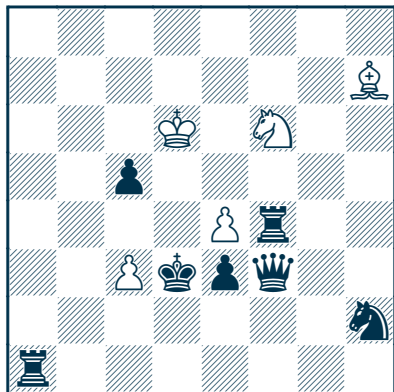
John Rice Surbiton
Mate in 2
Original



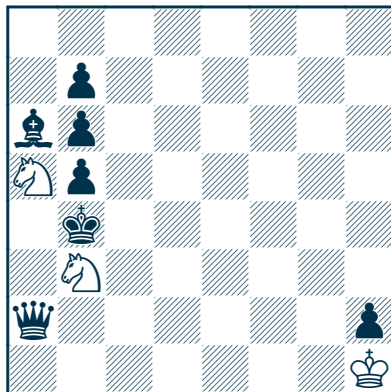
John Rice Surbiton
Mate in 2
Original

Diary

Polar Capital Jersey, 10th–16th April, 2016. Open, U1900, Blitz
paulmwoj@gmail.com



Christer Jonsson Sweden
Helpmate in 3 moves; 2 solutions
Original



Christer Jonsson Sweden
Helpmate in 3 moves; 2 solutions
Original



This month I am delighted to present two new problems by each of two of our most eminent contributors. Before reading the later paragraphs you may like to have a look at these four diagrams, with a view to solving them or at least to having a sense of what possible ways of solving them suggest themselves and what difficulties stand in the way. Remember that in the first two problems you are looking for the only move that guarantees mate next move and that in the two helpmates you are looking for sequences of cooperative moves initiated by Black (bwbwbw) leading to a position in which Black is mated. Interestingly, there is a thematic thread connecting John's two problems and a thematic thread connecting Christer's two. So solve one and you may well be in the right frame of mind to solve the other.

In John's first problem it would be a ruinous flaw if it were the case that White

had to worry about checks from the b♖ – but he doesn't: if 1...♖e4+ 2 ♘xe4# and if 1...Qd3+ 2 Nxd3#. Note that the w♖ plays a vital role in both these mates, guarding c4 in the first and d5 in the second. But to make headway we have to find a way for White to threaten a mate – *how?* Aficionados will not be surprised that we have to give up that set play. After the key, 1 ♖f2!, hiding behind the w♖, the Queen no longer covers c4 and d5, but we have new mates for 1...♖e4+/♖d3+: 2 ♔xe4/♔xd3. The threat is 2 ♔d2# (a *royal battery* as problemists luridly designate this motif), and there are further mates delivered by the w♔: 1...♗f3/♗e2 2 ♔xf3/♔xe2. So in all there are 5 royal battery mates. The whole package is satisfying, completed by mating captures by the w♖: 1...♖f5/♖c2 2 ♖xf5/♖xc2.

In John's second problem a royal battery has already been put in place. So do we simply have to engineer a battery mate from the ♖ at e7? It turns out that

this is not possible – the w♔ is needed to unlock the cage around the w♔. (Very artful to place the ♔ on e7 rather than say e8, where it would be obvious that it must move to a more active square!) Try 1 ♔e5. This threatens 2 ♔xd5# and meets 1... ♔xe5+ / ♔e6 by 2 ♔xe5 / ♔xe6. But 1... dxc4! (preparing 2... ♔xb5) refutes. So try the other move by which the w♔ can shield a mating move by the w♔: 1 ♔e6!. This move, threatening 2 ♔d7# and meeting the pesky defence 1... dxc4 by 2 ♔xc4, is indeed the key. Other defences are 1... ♔e5+ / ♔xe6 / ♔b6 / bxc6 / d4, met by 2 ♔xe5 / ♔xe6 / ♔c7 / ♔xc6 / ♔cb3. Spread between try and key there are battery mates by the w♔ moving to all 6 squares that take it off the diagonal. John is a specialist in royal batteries, and can be counted on to exploit the full potential of such positions.

Changing gear, we now look at the two helpmates. In the first one you may infer that the b♔ would be well trussed up if it went to e4, which is at present doubly guarded. It isn't feasible for White to withdraw both guarding officers, so in true helpmate style Black must disable one guard. It isn't at all obvious how he is to do so as his two 'spare men', the a1♖ and h2♗, are far from the action. This is how it is done: 1 ♗g4 ♕g8 2 ♗xf6 ♕b3 3 ♔xe4

♕c2# and 1 ♖a7 ♔e6 2 ♖xh7 ♗d7 3 ♔xe4 ♗xc5#. (Some theorists, who believe that in a helpmate each strategic objective should be achieved as succinctly as possible, would prefer problems in which w♗ and w♕ could be captured in one move, but to me making these strategic captures more difficult to see heightens not only the puzzle element, but also the aesthetic appeal.)

In Christer's second problem, we again have to surmount difficulties to get the b♔ on to the square on which it will be suitably trussed up – in this case, a5 is guarded by one w♗ and actually occupied by the other. But if we can escort the ♔ to that square we do need only one ♗ to administer mate... though if that mate is from c6 (as it must be, to guard the ♔'s initial square, b4) then something must be done about the ♖b7... Putting all this together, we arrive at two highly ingenious and rather diverse solutions in which each ♗ reaches c6 (while the other is captured – the *Zilahi theme*) – 1 ♔xb3 ♗xb7 2 ♔a4 ♗d8 3 ♔a5 ♗c6# and 1 ♔a4 ♗c6 2 bxc6 ♗d4 3 ♔a5 ♗xc6#. (Going back to those helpmate theorists, they might regret that in both Christer's problems the b♔ must play the same move in both solutions; but that, of course, is an unavoidable part of his idea.)



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2012 Hastings, 2011/12, Special 'Nimzowitsch Issue', Death of Gligoric, Delancey UK Chess Challenge, Game of the Month with **David Howell**, the Dynamic Sicilian, Stefano Tatai, Lawrence Day, Sabrina Chevannes Interviews, Amsterdam 'Golden Classic', Judith Polgar: Record Breaker, Tal Memorial, Way's *Opening Perils*, Harman's *Correspondence Chess*, **Eddie Dearing** and the GP Attack! *plus* Lady Gaga Sings in St. Louis and Offbeat Chess with A.P. Smith.

2013 English County Final, **Adams** Wins Dortmund, British is in Torquay, 1 e4 e6 with Tom Rendle, Launch of *JBCM*, Passed Pawns in the Middlegame, Analogy of the Chessboard, Forty Years Ago, Queenside Pawn Majorities, Paintings of Nette Robinson, Interviews with Henrique Mecking, Mikhail Golubev, Hulton's Boys and Girls Exhibition *plus* The London Classic and **Gary** on the Ponziani.

2014 Massacre in Chennai, Nakamura wins the LCC, **Ivkov Tribute**, Interviews with Emms, the Blackmar-Diemer, Nunn wins the British Solving Championship, More from the Rock, Plaskett's Postcard, 2014 Candidates, the Psaila Effect, Openings for Amateurs (Pete Tamburro), 'Correspondence Chess' by GMC Jonathan Berry, **Sinquefield Cup**, US Open, King's Place with Tom Rendle, \$100,000 to Wesley So *plus* Club Knight and Forgotten Masters.

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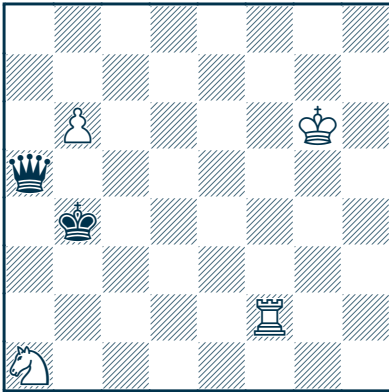
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Endgame Studies

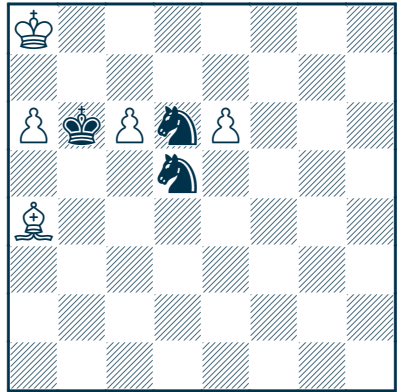
Ian Watson

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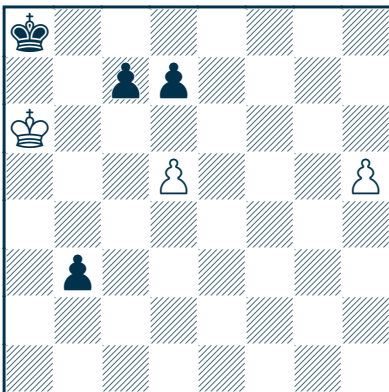
Parallel Universes



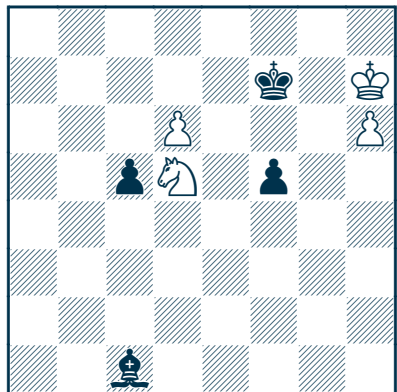
Y Bazlov *Shakhmaty v SSSR* 1972
Win



D Ehrlich & H Aloni *Problemas* 1965
Draw



S Zhigis *Shakhmatny Listok* 1928
Draw



P Massinen *Israel Ring Ty* 1994
Win



Grandmasters, IMs and FMs; Elo ratings; World Championships; European Championships; a World Cup and an international tourney circuit.

Yes, I'm talking about chess, but not chess as players know it. This is the parallel universe of chess problem solving!

Poland won this year's World Championship for teams, comfortably ahead of team GB, the silver medallists. Kasper Piorun of Poland won the individual World Championship, but only by the thinnest of margins from Britain's John Nunn.

Why, you may ask, am I telling you this in a studies column? Because the events include not only solving problems such as you find in Christopher Jones' column, but also solving endgame studies. So here are some studies that competitors had to solve in events from this year's solving circuit. The first two are from the Open tournament held as a warm-up event for the competitors in the European Championship. Five of the top six competitors in this Open scored full points on both of those studies. To get full points, the solvers had to write down all the moves shown here in bold.

The solution to the Bazlov is **1 ♖b2+ ♔a3 2 ♖b3+ ♔a2 3 b7 ♖a6+ 4 ♔g5 ♖a5+ 5 ♔g4 ♖a4+ 6 ♔g3 ♔xa1 7 b8♖ ♔a2 8 ♖b2+ ♔a3 9 ♖b1 ♔a2 10 ♖b2+ wins. 4 ♔g7? ♖a7; 7 b8♗? ♖xb3+. Also 7... ♖a2 8 ♔h3.**

In the second study, White is in serious danger of being mated even though Black only has two knights; for example, **1 c7 ♔xc7** and White's king can't escape. So, **1 ♔b8 ♖c7 2 ♔b5 ♖xc5 3 c7 ♖xc7 4 e7 ♖xa6+ 5 ♔a8 ♖b5 6 e8♖** draws. **3 a7? ♖xa7 4 e7 ♖xc6+ 5 ♔a8 ♖b5 6 e8♖ ♔a6 wins. 3 e7? ♖c7 4 e8♗ ♖xa6+ 5 ♔a8 ♖xe8 wins.**

There are also competitions for solvers who aren't the inhumanly fast calculators that Piorun and Nunn are. Your two studies for solving were used in the International Solving Contest in January; that event had three sections to cover solvers of different strengths and these were in the third and second sections. There are five points available for solving each study. You need to get everything right up to where each point is awarded to get that point. Give yourself twenty minutes for each study.

The solutions are given on p. 559.

Abu Dhabi Masters

IM Tom Rendle

thomasrendle365@hotmail.com



Whilst there was plenty of entertaining chess at the Sinquefeld Cup, there was also a very strong open tournament going on in the UAE – the Abu Dhabi Masters. It featured more than 20 players rated above 2600 and it was won on tie break by

Swedish GM Nils Grandelius. His most impressive win was this tricky game against the very creative Richard Rapport.

- R Rapport
- N Grandelius

Abu Dhabi Masters, 2015
Trompowsky A45

[Rendle]

1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♙g5 ♘e4 3 h4

Quite an unusual variation, but by Rapport's unique standards this is actually rather mainline!

3...d5 4 ♘d2 ♙f5 5 ♘xe4 ♙xe4 6 f3 h6!

6...♙f5 7 g4 is exactly what White is after in this line.

7 ♙f4

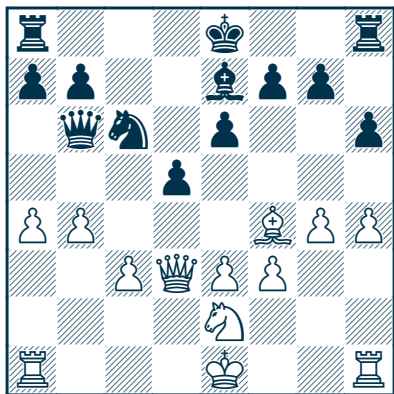
7 fxe4!? hxg5 8 exd5 ♖xd5 is already just better for Black.

7...♙h7 8 e3 e6 9 ♙d3 ♙xd3 10 ♖xd3 c5!

This is usually a key move in 1 d4 d5 sidelines if White doesn't play c4 to put pressure on the Black centre. Grandelius comfortably equalises with this move.

11 dxc5 ♖a5+ 12 c3 ♖xc5 13 ♘e2 ♘c6 14 b4

Gaining space on the queenside at the cost of creating long-term weaknesses. White seems to be doing OK here, but already there is a question of where the king on e1 is going to end up!

14...♖b6 15 a4 ♙e7 16 g4?!

This just strikes me as too much – pawns don't go backwards! If Black ever coordinates well enough to go on the attack White's position will be very difficult to defend.

16 ♖b5! makes sense to me – with the

queens off White can safely play ♙f2 with a reasonable game.

16...♖d8!

Preparing to take control of the centre with ...e5.

17 ♙g3 ♙d6 18 f4 h5! 19 g5 g6

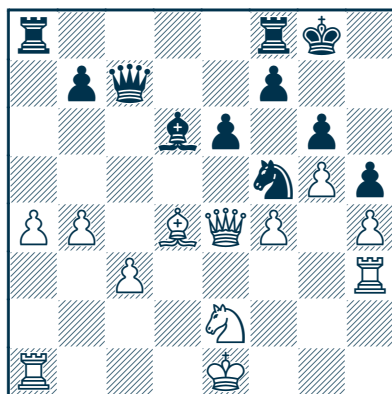
Now Rapport has a miserable bishop on g3 as well as very dubious looking white squares!

20 e4 dxe4 21 ♖xe4 ♖c7 22 ♙f2 ♘e7

Losing a pawn, but it doesn't really matter as it costs White a couple of moves and the initiative is of greater importance. 22...0-0 was also good and doesn't allow the trick with ♙a7.

23 ♙xa7 0-0

The point of course is that 23...♖xa7? is met by 24 ♖d4 0-0 25 ♖xa7 although even this position isn't completely clear after 25...♘d5 and Black has decent compensation for the exchange.

24 ♙d4 ♘f5 25 ♖h3?!

Sometimes Rapport is too creative for his own good. This may be an 'interesting' way to develop the rook, but I'd still have preferred 25 ♙f2, simply connecting the rooks and getting the king off the e-file. Nils swiftly seizes on this error and seeks to open the game up with ...e5.

25...♖fe8!

Now White must swap off his best minor piece

to prevent Black from opening the centre, but Black is already close to winning here.

26 ♖e5

Or 26 ♖f3 e5 27 fxe5 ♖xe5 28 ♖f2 ♖f4 29 ♖f1 ♖e3 and Black has a winning attack.

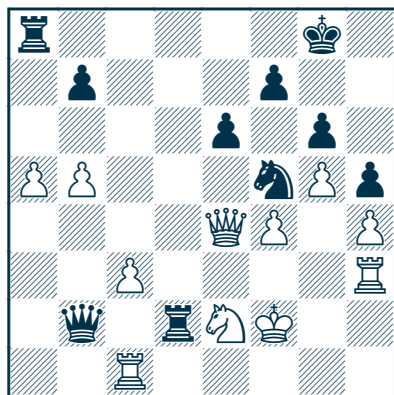
26...♖xe5 27 ♖xe5

27 fxe5 is no better, as after 27...♖ed8 28 ♖f3 ♖d5 White loses the pawn and remains clearly worse.

27...♖c6!

Of course, with the white king so vulnerable Grandelius has little interest in a queen exchange.

28 ♖f2 ♖ed8 29 ♖c5 ♖e4 30 ♖e5 ♖c2 31 a5 ♖d2



Simple and strong play from Nils, invading the 7th rank and preparing to bring his other rook into the action. Understandably Rapport tries to create a distraction on the queenside, but his position quickly collapses.

32 b5 ♖d5 33 ♖c1 ♖b2 34 ♖e4 ♖d2 35 ♖e1 ♖xb5 36 ♖b4 ♖c6 37 ♖b6 ♖d5 38 c4 ♖xc4 39 ♖f1 ♖d5 40 ♖h2 ♖xa5

The pawns have all dropped off one by one and Black is left with two extra pawns as well as an overwhelming advantage.

41 ♖g1 ♖aa2 0-1

A very instructive game from Grandelius who soaked up the early pressure from White's space advantage and then exploited the weaknesses left behind by all Rapport's pawn moves.



After leading the tournament for the first seven rounds, Grandelius almost missed out on first place by losing in Round 8 to Areshchenko, but he bounced back impressively to beat Vladimir Akopian in the last round to take the event on tiebreak with 7/9.

Another player to share 1st= on 7/9 was Baadur Jobava, who won this entertaining game against Tigran L Petrosyan in the final round.

□ TL Petrosyan

■ B Jobava

Abu Dhabi Masters, 2015
English A24

[Rendle]

1 ♖f3 ♖f6 2 g3 g6 3 ♖g2 ♖g7 4 0-0-0 5 c4 d6 6 ♖c3 e5 7 d3 c6 8 ♖g5

A slightly surprising choice, since the bishop soon ends up just getting exchanged on f6. Either ♖b1 or an immediate b4 are both more popular.

8...♖e6 9 ♖b1 ♖bd7 10 ♖d2 a5 11 a3 h6 12 ♖xf6 ♖xf6 13 b4 axb4 14 axb4 d5

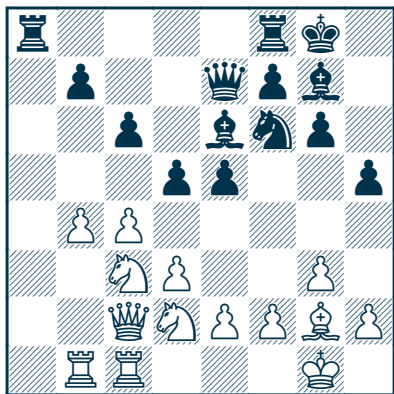
Jobava seizes control of the centre and with it takes control over the game. I must confess to not really understanding White's opening idea!

15 ♖c2 ♖e7

15...e4!? was worth considering, with the idea that after 16 dxe4 (16 cxd5 exd3 17 ♖xd3 ♖xd5 18 ♖xd5 cxd5 should be a little better for Black) 16...dxc4 Black is threatening to cement

the passed pawn on c4 with ...b5 and after 17 b5 ♖g4 18 bxc6 bxc6 Black has a dangerous-looking initiative.

16 ♖fc1 h5!



With control of the centre Jobava now seeks to weaken White's kingside to give himself an additional target to attack. White's pieces are well placed to put pressure on the queenside, but not so well to defend the king!

17 b5 h4 18 bxc6 bxc6 19 ♖b6 ♖fc8 20 ♖cb1 hxg3 21 hxg3 ♘g4!

Now the knight can't be shifted from g4 and there's the serious possibility of a quick ... ♙g5-h5 to worry about.

22 e3 e4! 23 dxe4?

23 d4 was necessary, but Black is still on top after 23... ♙g5.

23...d4!

A very strong pawn sacrifice that both destroys the pawn shelter for the white king and sends the white army into disarray.

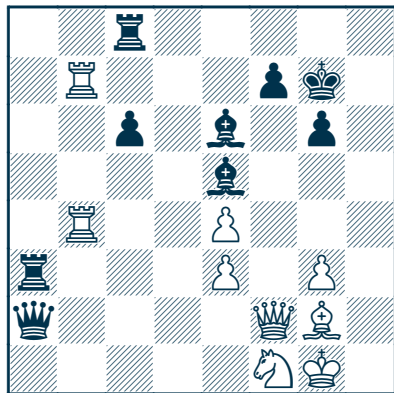
24 ♘d1 dxe3 25 ♘xe3 ♘xe3 26 fxe3 ♙e5 27 ♘f1 ♙c5 28 ♖b6d4 ♘g7!

Very calm – White can do little but wait, so Jobava simply improves his king position and gives himself the option of bringing a rook to the open h-file if needed.

29 ♙f2 ♖a3 30 ♖b7 ♙xc4 31 ♖1b4

31 ♘d2 might have been worth a try, but after 31... ♙a2 32 ♙f1 ♖h8! 33 ♖c1 ♖c3 any hopes for counterplay would have been quashed.

31... ♙a2



Black has regained the pawn and is happy to exchange queens into a winning ending. Petrosian tries to create counterplay, but there is no defence to the advance of Black's passed c-pawn.

32 ♙f3

32 ♙xa2 ♖xa2 33 ♖4b6 ♙f8 34 ♙f3 c5 is also hopeless for White

32... ♖a7 33 g4 c5 34 ♖4b6 ♖xb7 35 ♖xb7 c4 36 g5 c3 37 ♖b5 c2! 0-1

A very smooth victory from Jobava.



The other players who tied for first on 7/9 were Martyn Kravtsiv, Alexander Areshchenko and Richard Rapport. English GM Gawain Jones was part of the group of players who finished just behind the winners on 6.5/9.

Openings for Amateurs

Pete Tamburro

ptamburro@aol.com



What does a boy do for his birthday? He plays in the World Open, beats a GM in the last round to reach 6½/9,

ties with Kamsky and McShane among others for 9th–10th place and walks off with \$4,000 prize money. Turning fourteen during the tournament, **John Burke** followed that up with a 6/9 performance at the New York International for his second IM norm. Not bad for a kid who saw *'Chess for Dummies'* at the age of six in a bookshop, learned the moves and, at eight or nine, went on the internet to play on the ICC. JB ended up taking lessons from Romanian IM Dan Vasiesu. At the 2011 World Youth Games he was assigned Joel Benjamin and has been since coached by him. His final round World Open game against GM Subramanian is of theoretical interest.

First, though, we need to go back some sixty years. In 1955, Arthur Bisguier attracted a great deal of attention with the very same idea that JB uses here. It made quite a stir: Bisguier's putting his knight on d5, to have it exchanged, and a pawn recapture on that square seemed to fly in the face of a generation of players who were eagerly reading Irving Chernev's *'The Most Instructive Games of Chess Ever Played'*, which offered Smyslov–Rudakovsky, Moscow, 1945, as an example of playing f4 against Black's ...e5 move and playing to keep the d5 square pawn-free for the knight to dominate the game.

□ AB Bisguier

■ G Barcza

Zagreb, 1955

Sicilian, Najdorf B92

[Tamburro]

1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 ♗f6
5 ♗c3 a6 6 ♕e2 e5 7 ♗b3 ♕e7 8 0–0 0–0
9 ♕e3 ♖c7 10 f3 ♕e6 11 ♗d5 ♗xd5 12
exd5 ♗bd7 13 c4 b6 14 ♗d2 a5 15 ♗b1!
♗e8 16 ♗c3 ♖d8 17 a3 ♕g5 18 ♕f2 f5 19
♖c2 ♖f6 20 ♗d3 g6 21 ♗a4 ♖d8 22 b4
♗ef6 23 c5!?

23 ♖ae1!

23...bxc5?!

23...e4.

24 bxc5 ♗xc5 25 ♗xc5 dxc5 26 ♖ad1
♗d7 27 ♕b5 ♖c8 28 d6 ♖h8 29 ♗d5 ♕f7
30 ♖fd1 ♖f6 31 ♖c3 e4 32 ♗d4 ♕e3+ 33
♖xe3 cxd4 34 ♖xd4 ♖xd4+ 35 ♖1xd4
exf3 36 gxf3 ♗d8 37 ♕a4?

37 ♕c6! ♖c8 38 ♕a4 ♖a8 39 ♖b5 ♖ff8 40 ♖c4
♖fd8 41 ♖b7 ♗f8 42 d7.

37...♖a8?

37...♗b6! 38 ♖xa5 ♗xa4 39 ♖axa4 ♖fd7 40
♖a6 ♖g7 41 a4 ♖f6 42 ♖f2 ♕e6 43 ♕e3 g5 44
h4 h6 45 h5 ♖xd6 46 ♖axd6+ ♖xd6 47 ♗b4 (47
♖xd6+?? ♖xd6 48 ♗d4 ♖c6 49 ♕e5 f4) 47...
♖a6=.

38 ♖b5 ♖a7 39 ♖dd5 ♗f8 40 ♖dc5 ♖a6 41
d7?

41 ♖c7+–.

41...♗xd7?

41...♖xd7! 42 ♖b8 ♖f7=.

42 ♖c7 ♗d6 43 ♖xa5 ♗d3 44 ♕c6 ♗e5
45 ♖c8+ ♖g7 46 ♖xe5 ♖xa3 47 ♖f2 ♖c3
48 ♕b7 ♖xc8 49 ♕xc8 ♖c7 50 ♕a6 ♖f6
51 ♖d5 ♖c2+ 52 ♖g3 f4+ 53 ♖h3 ♖f2 54

♖d3 h5 55 ♙b7 g5 56 ♖d6+ ♔g7 57 ♖d7+ ♙h8 58 ♙e4 g4+ 59 ♕xg4 ♕xg4+ 60 ♔xg4 ♕xh2 61 ♔g5 f3 62 ♙f6 1-0

□ J Burke

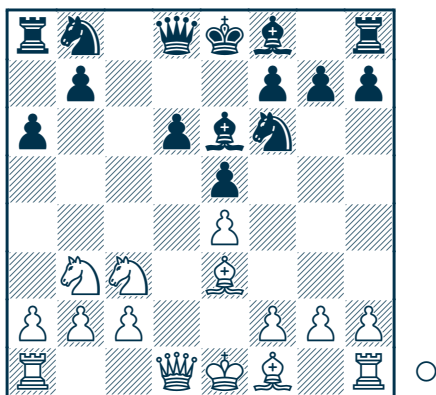
■ A Subramanian

World Open, 2015

Sicilian B90

[Tamburro]

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 ♘c3 a6 4 d4 cxd4 5 ♗xd4 ♗f6 6 ♙e3 e5 7 ♗b3 ♙e6



One of the many standard positions in the Najdorf. White didn't play 6 ♙g5, and Black didn't try 6...e6 or 6...♗g4. Now, however, things get interesting.

8 f3

As young players keep up with the latest games, it is reasonable to speculate that White was aware of W So-R Wojtaszek, Tata Steel, 2015, with the coming ♗d5 idea and S Shankland-Hou Yifan, Hawaii, 2015 with f3 providing support for a pawn storm with g4. Why play 8 f3 rather than go right into an earlier ♗d5? Things seem to work after: 8 ♙e2 ♙e7 9 ♗d5.

However, Black has 9...♗xd5!

(a) 9...♙xd5 10 exd5 ♗bd7 11 0-0 0-0 12 c4 ♗e8 13 ♖d2 h6 (13...f5 14 f4) 14 ♖b4.

(b) 9...♗xe4? 10 ♙b6; 10 exd5 ♙f5=.

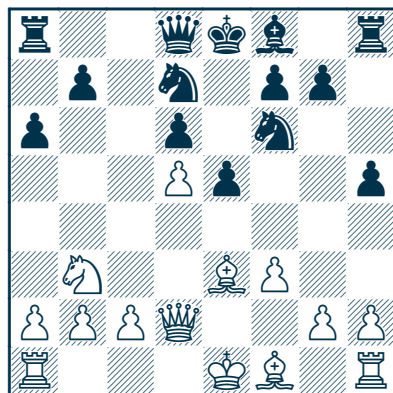
8...h5

John Burke told us that he had decided, if Black played ...h5, that he would go with the ♗d5 idea.

9 ♖d2 ♗bd7 10 ♗d5 ♙xd5

The alternative capture is not as clear as in the note to move 9. Here's just one possibility out of many: 10...♗xd5 11 exd5 ♙f5 12 ♙e2 ♖c8 13 ♖c1 ♖h4+ 14 ♙f2 ♖f6 15 0-0 ♙e7 16 ♗a5 ♖g6 17 ♗xb7 ♙h3 18 ♙g3 h4 19 ♙d3 f5 20 ♙e1 0-0 21 ♗h1 ♙g5 22 f4 exf4 23 gxf4 f3 24 ♖f2 ♙xc1 25 ♙c3 ♙g5 26 ♖xf3 and White, for the exchange, has two lovely bishops working side-by-side while Black's pawns are a real liability. Perhaps Subramanian looked at all the possibilities and picked a better-known path.

11 exd5



Bisguier's rationale many years ago was to mobilise the queenside pawns with c4 and b4, with the idea of pushing to c5, whereupon the White d-pawn would become a strong passed pawn.

11...g6

In 2008, Leko castled queenside against Ivanchuk, as did Anand versus Topalov a year later. However, Caruana, the man of the hour, played 12 ♙e2 versus Gelfand in 2014. Our young star goes with fashion. Another explanation is that young JB has admirable patience. No slashing attacks are attempted, as are often seen in one so young. He has eschewed

attacking play for positional play.

12 ♖e2 ♖c7

White has several choices here. Both 13 c4 and 13 ♖c1 are in keeping with the idea of the exd5 line. The move played also has its points. Since c4 and b4 are in the plans, the knight advances in order to later retreat after b4 to help enforce c5. There is another reason. If Black tickles the knight with the pawn the horse can find a comfortable stable at c6.

13 ♖a5 ♖g7 14 0-0 0-0 15 c4 ♖fe8

Black needed to be more active, following the old adage about flank attacks needing to be countered in the centre. Seeing those two plans in opposition would have been of great interest: 15...e4 16 ♖ac1 (16 b4; 16 f4) 16...exf3 17 ♖xf3 ♖fe8 18 b4 ♖e4 19 ♖xe4 ♖xe4 20 c5 ♖ae8 21 ♖c4 dxc5 22 bxc5 with a very tense and fluid position.

16 b4 e4

One move late. It happens to all of us!

17 f4 b6 18 ♖c6 a5

18...♖g4 19 ♖xg4 hxg4 20 ♖ac1 a5 21 bxa5 bxa5 22 f5.

19 a3

Cautious. He could have been aggressive here with: 19 bxa5 bxa5 20 f5 ♖g4 21 fxg6.

19...♖g4 20 ♖d4 e3 21 ♖c3 ♖xd4 22 ♖xd4

He is no doubt thinking of how useful the knight could be in supporting the f5 advance. The queen recapture had its good points: 22 ♖xd4 ♖h6 23 ♖d3 ♖g4 24 h3 ♖gf6 25 f5.

22...♖df6 23 h3 ♖f2 24 ♖c6!

Right back! The knight cuts off counterplay on the c-file.

24 ♖h7 25 ♖ae1 axb4 26 axb4 ♖a2

One of those melancholy times when a rook on the seventh is quite unsatisfying. Even the passed pawn is a disappointment. JB calmly controls the position.

27 ♖f3 ♖d7 28 ♖a1?!

Taking the e3 pawn was a clear win. He might

have missed White's 29th move in this line: 28 ♖xe3 ♖hx3+ 29 ♖h2! ♖xf4 30 ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 31 ♖e1 ♖e2 32 ♖d3.

28...♖a1

28...♖d2 29 ♖a7 ♖hx3+ 30 ♖h2 ♖c8 31 f5 is exciting but unsuccessful. Burke felt that Black's best chance to draw was: 28...e2 29 ♖xa2 ♖hx3+ 30 gxh3 exf1 ♖+ 31 ♖xf1 ♖hx3+.

29 ♖a1 ♖hx3+ 30 gxh3

Taking the knight now is OK.

30...♖hx3

Black can draw if White goes with 31 ♖g2 (♖h4) or 31 ♖e2 (♖g3+) or 31 ♖b2 (♖xf3), or 32 c5 (♖g3+) or 31 ♖a2 (♖h4). In fact, White has only one move that wins. He is well aware of the fatal weakness of the dark square diagonal.

31 ♖e7+ ♖f8 32 ♖xg6+ fxg6 33 ♖h8+ ♖e7 34 ♖a7+ ♖d8 35 ♖a8+ ♖c7 36 ♖hx7+ 1-0

An impressive performance by this young man. John Burke's development is worth keeping an eye on.



Endgame Studies Solutions (See p. 552)

(Zhigis)

1 d6 (1 point) c6 2 h6 (2 pts) b2 3 h7 b1 ♖ 4 h8 ♖+ ♖b8 5 ♖d8 (2 pts) ♖xd8 stalemate.

(Massinen)

1 d7 (1 point) ♖g5 2 ♖f4 (1 pt) c4 3 ♖e6 (1 pt) ♖xe6 4 ♖g6 (1 pt) c3 5 h7 c2 6 h8 ♖ c1 ♖ 7 ♖c8 (1 pt) wins.

Not 2 ♖c7? f4 3 ♖e6 ♖xe6 4 ♖g6 f3 5 ♖xg5 ♖xd7.



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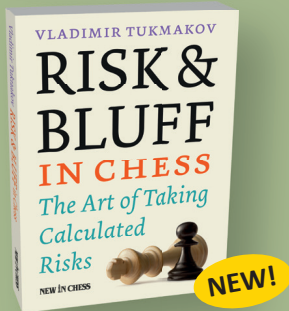


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